

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3003

May 30, 2017

Mr. Keith Hall
Director
Congressional Budget Office
Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Hall:

Thank you for meeting with me on May 18th. I appreciate that you brought Holly Harvey, CBO's Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis - Health, who you introduced as the primary project leader for the report on the American Health Care Act (AHCA). Her presence at the meeting was helpful as she answered most of the questions. It was also valuable to be joined by Speaker Ryan's healthcare staffer, Matt Hoffman. As a follow-up to our meeting and the recent score for the AHCA, I have a few questions.

ACHIEVING IMPARTIALITY

We discussed the vital importance of impartiality in developing and reporting the CBO's findings. In view of your clearly stated understanding of this critical issue, I must ask a few more specific questions.

1. Is Holly Harvey the same person as Patricia Holly Harvey, formerly of HHS? Is this the same person who was on the list of people released by the White House in 1993 as working for Hillary Clinton's "Health Care Task Force Working Group"?
2. If this is indeed the same person, when did you become aware of her background?
3. If this is the same person, in view of Hillary Clinton losing the Presidential election to Donald Trump only 6 months ago, why was Ms. Harvey's prior experience in advising Hillary Clinton on designing a single payer healthcare system not disclosed to Congress in the AHCA report?
4. If you were unaware of Ms. Harvey's background, what actions do you plan to take?

5. In a letter dated March 11, 2010 by then CBO Director Elmendorf, Holly Harvey is listed as the primary staff contact for the CBO analysis of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Considering the significant errors in this report, please describe in detail her role in the CBO analysis of the ACA.

ESTIMATES of PEOPLE INSURED

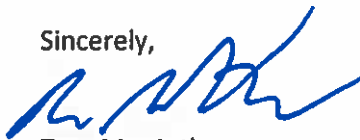
1. When estimating the number of future insureds under the AHCA and the ACA, was the CBO model based on the actual number of insureds today, or based on CBO's prior estimates on ACA's future effects on the insured population?
2. How did CBO account for its drastically incorrect past estimates in multiple prior ACA reports, to ensure that the same errors didn't recur? (In 2013 the CBO predicted there would be 24 million participants in the ACA Exchanges in 2016. The estimate was revised downward to 22 million in 2014, to 21 million in 2015 and to 12 million in 2016. The actual number was 10 million participants.)
3. Please submit a comparison of the estimated number of insureds under the AHCA from 2020 to 2026, to today's actual number of insured people under the ACA.

PREMIUM DECREASES

1. In your most recent score, the CBO estimated that 1/6 of the U.S. population lives in states that would obtain both EHB and community rating waivers, yet you did not provide an estimate of the effect on premiums. Why did CBO decline to make this estimate?
2. Please submit the modeling that was done on these waiver states, including all data of what specific premium reductions would be expected from states obtaining multiple waivers.

Due to the exigent nature of congressional debate on healthcare and the AHCA, your immediate response would be most appreciated. Please don't hesitate to call if I need to clarify any of my questions.

Sincerely,



Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress
Third District of NJ

CC:

Paul Ryan – Speaker of the House

Diane Black – Chairman of House Budget Committee

Mitch McConnell – Senate Majority Leader

Tom Price – Secretary of Health and Human Services

Mick Mulvaney – Director of the Office of Management and Budget