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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

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January 29, 2010

The President  
The White House  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I hope that the State of the Union address to the Nation is the beginning of a new direction in Washington.

Following years of runaway spending and record deficits and debt I believe we must immediately begin to work together and make tough and common-sense decisions that will help strengthen our economy and put people back to work.

I ask that you consider the following concerning health care reform, taxes and debt reduction.

#### HEALTHCARE

During your State of the Union you said, "...if anyone from either party has a better approach that will bring down premiums, bring down the deficit, cover the uninsured, strengthen Medicare for seniors, and stop insurance company abuses, let me know."

Mr. President, Republicans in Congress do have a better approach. The "Medical Rights and Reform Act" introduced by Rep. Kirk (IL) and me is fiscally responsible legislation that reduces costs and expands insurance coverage without raising taxes, cutting Medicare or putting the government between patient and doctor.

Our legislation puts forth common sense reforms, like letting families and businesses buy health insurance policies across state lines, letting small business pool together and ending frivolous lawsuits against doctors and hospitals that drive up the cost of healthcare. And our bill allows young adults to remain on their parents' health plan.

I urge you and your staff to work with Republicans toward passage of the Medical Rights and Reform Act.

#### TAXES

While I support your call to "eliminate all capital gains taxes on small business investment; and provide a tax incentive for all businesses, large and small, to invest in new plants and equipment," I ask that you strongly reconsider your call for higher taxes for families making more than \$250,000 a year.

In New Jersey, this policy would have a disastrous effect on our fragile economy.

Garden State residents have one of the highest costs of living in the country – including skyrocketing federal, state and local taxes.

Specifically in New Jersey's Seventh Congressional District constituents are not "super rich." They are hard-working, middle-class families whose household finances are being squeezed through higher taxes and rising interest payments on their debt.

The Administration and Congress should extend the 2001 and 2003 tax cuts for all taxpayers. And you should strongly reconsider the so-called "bank tax" that will stunt economic growth and job creation, impose a huge burden on consumers and hurt American competitiveness.

Our economy will be strengthened greatly by these actions.

#### SPENDING and DEBT

I certainly appreciate your call to freeze government spending for three years beginning in 2011. However, freezing federal spending at last year's spending levels – the nation's highest levels in history – is simply not enough to get our fiscal house in order.

In addition to your spending freeze I call on the Administration to work with Congress to pass a legislative package of bills I have introduced to control runaway federal spending and limit our Nation's ever-growing debt and deficits.

The "Pay It Back Act" would apply unspent funds from the federal stimulus law as well as the TARP directly to debt reduction. We must not use TARP for additional federal spending.

The "Deficit Reduction Act" would apply fiscally responsible caps on annual congressional spending and debt.

Finally we must not raise the debt ceiling without first achieving meaningful action on reducing federal spending. Let us work together to identify wasteful and duplicative federal spending and show the American people that we can make tough fiscal decisions necessary to stay within the debt ceiling.

House Republicans are ready to work with you on the economic challenges facing our country. For the sake of our children's future, let us begin to get our fiscal house in order.

Best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leonard Lance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Leonard Lance  
Member of Congress  
Seventh District, New Jersey