



December 17, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Room S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid,

As health care reform legislation makes its way through the Senate, I wanted to add my voice to those supporting a last push to make progress on what is one of the most vital economic issues facing our nation.

I write as part of an industry that prides itself on attracting the best, most innovative talent. All of us in Silicon Valley are noticing two disturbing trends: people are staying in their jobs because they can't take their health insurance with them. Others are choosing jobs with established companies that provide health care rather than taking risks to start or join new companies.

It is precisely those start-up companies that generate most of the new jobs and are the laboratories for new technologies that will keep our country competitive globally. But today less than one-half of companies with fewer than ten employees offers health insurance. Our country is, in effect, letting the availability and price of health insurance dictate a critical piece of our economic future. That's no way to promote growth.

On health care, there are no easy answers or simple solutions. But one thing is certain: doing nothing will only hurt our citizens -- those who have no health insurance, those who receive poor quality care, and all of us who pay too much for health care.

None of us would argue that the legislation in the Senate or the House is the perfect solution. But if our country fails to enact health reform, a decade or more will no doubt pass before another Administration and Congress has the courage to take up this issue.

These are critical economic times. To encourage entrepreneurs, spark innovation and generate new jobs, we must act now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Schmidt".

Eric Schmidt