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# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

August 25, 2016

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WELLINGTON, FL 33414

The Honorable Rick Scott  
Governor of Florida  
Plaza 05, The Capitol  
404 South Monroe Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Dear Governor Scott:

Today, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services released a new report showing that your continued opposition to expansion of Medicaid eligibility for hard-working, low-income Floridians may be pushing premiums higher for those enrolled in plans on [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov). The analysis shows that Medicaid expansion is associated with seven percent lower Affordable Care Act Marketplace premiums when comparing matched counties along the border of states that chose to expand and those that did not.

This is further evidence that accepting the over \$50 billion in federal funding for Medicaid expansion is right for Florida, to keep our residents healthy and health care options affordable. Approximately 576,000 Floridians, who could be eligible, currently fall into a gap that both keeps them out of Medicaid and out of plans on [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov). There is no better policy solution on the horizon for these families, who on average earn between \$115 and \$530 per week for a family of three. Instead, your continued opposition is straining the state's budget, burdening hospitals obligated to provide uncompensated care, and delaying important investments in Floridian's health and our economy.

It is time for you to stop running our state with the aim of undermining the Affordable Care Act for political purposes at the expense of the health of thousands of Florida families. Instead, accept the facts that weigh heavily in favor of bringing low-income Floridians into the ranks of the insured. Enrolling these families in comprehensive preventive health care will improve management of chronic conditions, allow for earlier diagnosis of disease, and expand access to mental health care. And now, we have evidence that it could also reduce premiums for the 1.5 million Florida consumers who currently purchase their coverage on [Healthcare.gov](http://Healthcare.gov).

Time and time again the evidence has shown that Medicaid expansion is right for Florida; right for our businesses, our hospitals, our families, and our most vulnerable neighbors. I urge you to finally put politics aside and work to build a Medicaid expansion plan that is the right fit for Florida.

Sincerely,

Ted Deutch  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS