



September 19, 2008

Bob Schieffer
CBS Television Network
2020 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Schieffer:

The Center for Medicine in the Public Interest is a non-profit, non-partisan organization focused on promoting innovative solutions that advance medical progress, reduce health disparities, extend life and make health care more affordable, preventive and patient-centered.

As you know, the future of health care in our country remains a priority issue for voters, and one whose outcome will affect each and every American in a highly-personal way.

CMPI is encouraged by the Presidential candidates' willingness to address our nation's health care challenges. However, we believe both candidates have not explained how their proposals for reform will affect patients, the health of our economy – which is inexplicitly tied to cost of health care – or the ability to provide appropriate treatments and medicines without undue limitations.

I hope you will pose a question to the candidates during the October 15th debate about how their health care reform proposals would affect the overall health care experience and health of patients.

The American people deserve to know more about how the candidates' health care policies will affect access to quality and affordable care, life-sustaining medicines, innovation toward future treatments and cures, and, most importantly, ensure that physicians will continue to be able to offer the highest quality of care to their patients.

In addition, CMPI believes the candidates ought to be clear about their views on the government's role in ensuring access and quality delivery of health care. Many countries around the world have dealt with this same issue to varying levels of success, such full single-payer systems in Canada and the United Kingdom that offer universal care but suffer from long waitlists, rationing of treatments and procedures, denial of certain medicines and a shrinking number of family and specialty physicians.

I have included some background material on these issues, as well as some information on CMPI and our public education efforts. I hope you find this information useful as you prepare for the debate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Pitts", with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Peter Pitts
Founder and President

Enclosures