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United States Senate

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March 6, 2017

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Ryan and Leader McConnell:

Thank you for your leadership in developing legislation to repeal the core elements of Obamacare and replace that disastrous law with reforms that reduce health costs, provide access to affordable coverage, put patients in charge of their health care, and return power to states. Without doubt, Obamacare has caused severe hardships on countless Montanans, and its Washington-centered tax and regulate formula has failed the American people.

As you prepare to introduce repeal and replace legislation, I wanted to bring your attention to provisions impacting workers and residents of Libby, Montana, that are unrelated to the heart of Obamacare but yet were included in that law. Hundreds of Libby residents have died, and two thousand more suffer illness today, as a result of exposure to decades of mining toxic asbestos dust that was utilized in construction materials. It remains an environmental and public health crisis. The related provisions provide access to Medicare for anyone exposed to the asbestos, grant victims access to home health care and other health services not covered by Medicare, and provide funding for screening. I ask that you retain these provisions.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this request, and I look forward to working with you both as Congress moves forward with legislation to repeal and replace Obamacare.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator