

GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON FISHERIES,
WILDLIFE, OCEANS AND INSULAR AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSERVATION, ENERGY, AND FORESTRY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON NUTRITION AND HORTICULTURE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Juan N. Babauta
Chief Executive Officer
Commonwealth Health Care Corporation
Saipan, MP 96950

Greetings Mr. Babauta,

I write to congratulate you on your appointment to be Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth Health Care Corporation.

I want you to know that I stand ready to work with you to provide whatever assistance may be obtained from the federal government to lift the quality, availability, and affordability of health care for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

During the 111th Congress we were able to triple the amount of Medicaid funding available to the Commonwealth – and to lower the local matching rate – among other reforms of the health care system. These new funds, which the Commonwealth began receiving in July, should help with the financial challenges the new Health Care Corporation faces.

In this Congress, the 112th, the Tri-Caucus of African-American, Pacific Islanders/Asian American, and Hispanic members has introduced legislation addressing disparities in health care for the constituents we serve. The bill also provides a Medicaid matching rate for the U.S. territories equal to the most favorable for any U.S. state. The Republican leadership in the House of Representatives, however, remains hostile to spending increases and seeks to repeal what was achieved in the 111th Congress.

Despite these political realities at the federal level and acknowledging that the real hard work of reforming and rebuilding the health care system in the Northern Marianas ultimately occurs at the local level, I do want you to know that I will be open to any suggestions for changes in federal laws or policies you may have.

I know we both want the people of the Northern Mariana Islands to achieve their greatest possible personal health. I look forward to working with you towards that goal.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress