Dear \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_,

I want to share with you the attached material on the very real issues our union faces as a result of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The information addresses the very unfortunate irony of Obamacare. Namely, that it will inevitably lead to the destruction of the healthcare plans we were promised we could keep. And, as a result, it will lead to greater income inequality for the very segment of the population Obamacare should want to help most.

Believe me; I enter this entire debate about the consequences of the ACA with a deep reluctance. Unite Here was the first union to endorse then Senator Obama. We support the addition of healthcare to millions of Americans. Yet facts are facts, and Obamacare will cost our members the equivalent of a significant pay cut to keep their hard-won benefits.

The debate in Washington is not an honest one. For the Republicans, it is all fear and repeal. For Democrats, they need to own up the destructive consequences of some aspects of the ACA and fix them.

Sadly, partisan warfare takes precedence over the lives and fortunes of union members, who clean toilets, wait tables and cook food.

In a rare and revealing instance of candor, an aide to Senator Menendez let slip the real intent of the ACA on workers with good coverage. He told a group of labor colleagues that labor needed to stop complaining about the negative impact of the ACA on their plans. To quote, he said, “Labor needs to regress to the mean.” In other words, rollback what you have and take one for the team. Ironic given that Congress and the President carved out an exemption for staffers on the ACA.

We cannot sit idly by as the politicians carve up our health plans while they carve out exceptions for themselves and every special interest feeding at the trough in Washington.

These issues impact policy, politics and the lives of our members. We owe it to them to be honest in our discussions. Something Washington is unable to do.

As election season looms, it is important for us to hold politicians accountable. Please use the enclosed information to ask those seeking our money and votes what they plan to do to ensure we can keep the healthcare we have.

Please contact Yvanna Cancela for more information at 702-524-8384 or ycancela@culinaryunion226.org.

Fraternally,

D. Taylor