Dear Senator:

On behalf of the millions of Americans we represent, our organizations write to express our strong opposition to the confirmation of Rep. Tom Price to serve as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). We also wish to convey our deep opposition to the effort to repeal the core elements of the Affordable Care Act, privatized Medicare and cap Medicaid funding to the states.

The stated mission of HHS is to, "enhance and protect the health and well-being of all Americans." But rather than promote the interests of all, Rep. Price has consistently promoted the interests of the well-to-do and the well-connected at the expense of the vast majority of Americans. In fact, Rep. Price has fought to weaken the very programs that he has been nominated to oversee. His views, which are far out of the mainstream, are incompatible with the goals of serving as Secretary of an agency that has a profound impact on the health and security of every American family.

As a member and, later, Chair of the House Budget Committee, Rep. Price supported budget proposals that granted tax cuts to profitable corporations and the wealthy and then sought to offset the lost revenue by cutting federal support for programs that reduce poverty and hunger, increase access to health care, give children a better start and provide other vital services. Chairman Price is a proponent of radical proposals to cut billions from Medicare, converting it to a voucher which would lose value over time and shift more and more costs onto seniors and people with disabilities. He also supports increasing the age of Medicare eligibility from 65 to 67, which would increase the number of older adults without health care coverage. Rep. Price supports capping Medicaid, a plan that would force states to reduce health services and eligibility for the poor and likely cut other state services to make up for lost federal revenue. Further, he supports the repeal of the Affordable Care Act, a plan that the Urban Institute estimates would cause 30 million people to lose their coverage by 2019 through the loss of ACA tax credits, elimination of the Medicaid expansion and the collapse of the individual insurance market.

More recently, Rep. Price has proposed budget process changes that would enable automatic across-the-board cuts to Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid and other critical services. The plan would shift the entire burden of deficit reduction onto low- and middle-income families without requiring the wealthy or profitable corporations to contribute through tax increases. Cynically, the plan would not require the Congress to debate or vote on spending cuts, even to Social Security. Members of Congress would be shielded from the consequences of allowing deeply unpopular cuts to take effect and citizens would lose their ability to influence budgetary decisions.

As consumers have become increasingly worried about their ability to obtain needed medicines, Rep. Price has been dismissive of proposals to address price gouging by pharmaceutical manufacturers. He referred to legislation requiring Medicare to negotiate drug prices with drug companies as "a solution in search of a problem.

During his tenure in the Congress, Rep. Price has established a record of extremism demonstrating that his values are out of step with the country. The Senate should not entrust the leadership of HHS to an individual who does not understand the challenges of the majority of Americans. We urge you to oppose his confirmation.

Sincerely,

9to5, National Association of Working Women

30 for 30 Campaign

AFL-CIO

Aging Life Care Association®

Alliance for Retired Americans

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees

American Federation of Teachers

American Indian Mothers Inc.

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers International Union

Bend the Arc Jewish Action

Black Women's Roundtable

Center for Community Change

Center for Constitutional Rights

Center for Law and Social Policy

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Center for Popular Democracy

Center for Science in the Public Interest

Citizens Council for Human Rights

Coalition on Human Needs

Communications Workers of America

Community Catalyst

CREDO

Disabled Rights Action Committee

EMILY's List

Family Equality Council

Families First

Families USA

Friends of the Earth

GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality

International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers

International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America

Just Harvest

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Main Street Alliance

Medical Mission Sisters, North America

Mi Familia Vota

Mommie Activist and Sons

MomsRising

MoveOn.org Civic Action

NAACP

National Advocates for Pregnant Women

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Black Justice Coalition

The National Center for Lesbian Rights

National Center for Transgender Equality

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Council of Jewish Women

National Domestic Workers Alliance

National Education Association

National Employment Law Project

National Health Law Program (NHeLP)

National Immigration Law Center

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Nurses United

National Partnership for Women and Families

National Physicians Alliance

National Women's Health Network

National Women's Law Center

People For the American Way

People Demanding Action

People's Action

Physicians for a National Health Program

Planned Parenthood Federation of America

Pride at Work

Project Inform

Public Citizen

Public Justice Center

Religious Institute

Service Employees International Union

Social Security Works

UNITE HERE

United Steelworkers

Voices for Progress Voto Latino UltraViolet Universal Health Care Action Network Witness to Mass Incarceration Working America