# 

[INSERT DATE]

[INSERT NAME/ADDRESS]

Dear [INSERT NAME/TITLE]:

[INSERT RELEVANT PERSONAL INFORMATION – e.g., amputation status, how long you have used a prosthesis, etc. – keep it brief: no more than 1-2 sentences].

I am writing to tell you that the inclusion of language in the Senate tax bill repealing the individual mandate to purchase health insurance will hurt me and all individuals living with limb loss/difference in the United States. I am therefore asking you to actively oppose this bill until this language is eliminated.

Eliminating the individual mandate will negatively affect me and other amputees in the United States in the following ways:

1. I will have to pay more for health insurance. In a report released on November 8th, the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated that average premiums for non-group (i.e. exchange) insurance plans will increase by roughly 10% *per year* for most years over the next decade.
2. The number of people without insurance will increase by 4M in 2019 and 13M over the next 10 years. The CBO notes that many of these uninsured individuals will be people who can no longer afford insurance due to the premium increases mentioned in the previous paragraph. People with generally higher out-of-pocket health care costs already – for example, amputees like me – will be particularly susceptible to premium increases and at increased risk of falling into the ranks of the uninsured. Put simply, this will have a disproportionately negative impact on the disability community generally and the amputee community specifically.

These potential outcomes from the Senate tax plan are unacceptable. I am therefore imploring you to vote against the Senate tax bill as long as the provision eliminating the individual mandate remains in it. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Very truly yours,

[INSERT NAME]