

June 22, 2026

Dear Prime Minister Carney,

We applaud your government's openness to health care reforms being pursued in Alberta that mirror practices used in high-performing universal public health care systems around the world.

As you know, Canada's health care system is in crisis across the country despite significant spending increases over the past few decades. We need to do something different.

Health care falls primarily under provincial jurisdiction under Canada's Constitution. Respecting that jurisdiction means provinces should have the latitude to experiment and innovate within their areas of responsibility – without fearing funding reductions from Ottawa. As you may know, your predecessor was known to reduce funding to provinces that allowed patients to choose between receiving a diagnostic scan in the public system or paying for one privately.

It is encouraging that your government has not yet signaled an intent to stifle Alberta's decision to copy what better-performing European countries do – allow patients to receive surgery in the public system or pay for one at a private facility (including payment through private insurance).

Sweden, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, the UK, Japan, Australia and many other better-performing systems all allow such a choice. By contrast, Canada continues to be the only developed country that effectively prohibits (or severely restricts) access to non-government medical options. Allowing choice helps these countries improve access for patients while taking pressure off their public systems.

Once policies are tested and evaluated in one province, successful reforms can then be adopted elsewhere. Canada benefits when provinces are able to pursue different approaches, learn from one another and improve outcomes for patients.

Again, we applaud your government for recognizing the importance of provincial flexibility and for taking a more open approach to provincial health care innovation and reform.

Sincerely,

David Clement,
Policy Director –
Consumer Choice Center



Peter Copeland,
Deputy Director of Domestic
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Daniel Dufort,
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