Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, Chairwoman of the House Committee on Rules, applauded a statement released by Americans for the Arts in support of comprehensive health care reform. Because so many artists are self-employed or work at non-profits or other small organizations, they are especially sensitive to fluctuations in price and availability of health insurance. Many artists do without insurance altogether.

Slaughter, the co-chair of the Congressional Arts caucus and one of the leading arts supporters in Congress, said the broad national support from arts groups would help with ongoing efforts to build consensus around legislation.

“Some of the best creative minds in the country lack insurance and are therefore vulnerable,” said Slaughter. “Being a painter, a sculptor, or photographer, a dancer or a musician shouldn’t keep you from accessing affordable health coverage. I’m grateful for this showing of support from arts groups and the message it sends to Washington.”