

February 16, 2017

Dear Representative.

On February 1, 2017, the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) began driving up the costs of health insurance premiums for millions of Americans, notably small businesses and hardworking families, as they began to renew their coverage. We are writing to ask for your critical help repealing the HIT as soon as possible.

The <u>Stop The HIT Coalition</u> represents millions of small business owners, their employees and the self-employed - all in desperate need of HIT repeal. Our position is one we can all agree on: we must provide immediate relief to hardworking Americans struggling under the weight of skyrocketing health insurance premiums. The most straight-forward and common sense way to immediately lower the cost of health insurance is to stop taxing premiums.

The HIT disproportionately hurts small businesses and middle-income families. Hardworking families will likely pay, on average, an additional \$5,000 over 10 years as a result of the HIT, and those with incomes within the \$10,000 - \$50,000 range will actually pay the bulk of the HIT.

HIT repeal enjoys bipartisan support. Indeed, Congress came together last year with nearly 400 Democrats and Republicans voting to delay the impact of the HIT for one year. While this was a welcome and much-needed first step, the HIT has now begun to increase premiums again and this time at even higher levels.

<u>Congress must act now to repeal the HIT</u>. The Stop The HIT Coalition applauds Representatives Kristi Noem and Kyrsten Sinema for introducing H.R. 246, the *Jobs and Premium Protection Act*. We urge you to cosponsor H.R. 246 and work with Representatives Noem, Sinema and your other colleagues to identify the earliest possible legislative vehicle to repeal the HIT.

America counts on small businesses to create jobs, opportunities, goods and services; but the cost of the HIT is weighing too heavily on our backs. We are counting on you to stand with us by repealing the HIT, once and for all.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Farm Bureau Federation

American Hotel and Lodging Association

American Rental Association

American Supply Association

Associated Builders and Contractors

Associated General Contractors

Auto Care Association

National Association of Convenience Stores

National Association of Health Underwriters

National Association of Manufacturers

National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

National Club Association

National Federation of Independent Business

National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association

National Restaurant Association

National Retail Federation

National Roofing Contractors Association

National Small Business Association

Printing Industries of America

Retail Industry Leaders Association

Specialty Equipment Market Association

Society of American Florists

U.S. Chamber of Commerce