

James A. Anderson, Jr.

Vice President-Government Relations

October 6, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
354 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

I write on behalf of the National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors (NAW) to thank you for introducing S. 1859, *Healthcare Tax Relief Act* and to applaud you for your leadership in doing so.

NAW is the “national voice of wholesale distribution,” an association comprised of employers of all sizes, and national, regional, state and local line-of-trade associations spanning the \$5.6 trillion wholesale distribution industry that employs more than 5.9 million workers in the United States. Approximately 40,000 enterprises with places of business in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are affiliated with NAW.

It is ironic that the health insurance tax (“HIT”) S. 1859 proposes to delay for an additional year was enacted in a statute commonly known as the “*Affordable Care Act*.” In a legislative initiative supposedly designed to improve access to health insurance and care in part by bending the cost of health coverage down, the HIT is particularly poorly placed: recent testimony suggests that the HIT, set to be reinstated next year following the one-year pause now in effect, will increase premiums in the 3% - 5% range.

NAW has advocated and continues to support repeal of the HIT. By extending for an additional year the current pause in its implementation, prompt enactment of the *Healthcare Tax Relief Act* will be an important step in that process. NAW is pleased to support S. 1859 and we look forward to working with you towards its passage into law.

Sincerely,



James A. Anderson, Jr.

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