



October 9, 2017

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

Dear Senator Gardner:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in strong support of S. 1859, the *Healthcare Tax Relief Act*.

As health plans are now working to complete their product offerings for 2018, it is more important than ever for Congress to extend the current moratorium on the health insurance tax (HIT) provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

While the tax technically falls on insurers, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) long ago confirmed that the tax is "passed through to consumers [small business owners and their employees] in the form of higher premiums for private coverage." The HIT falls solely on the fully insured market, where nearly all small businesses, sole proprietors, and individuals purchase their insurance.

Small businesses already face many challenges in trying to afford health insurance, and this tax only makes it more expensive for them to offer coverage to their employees. Simply put, the HIT is an additional cost that small businesses cannot afford.

We appreciate your recognition of the need to spare the nation's job creators from the HIT, and commend you for introducing this important legislation. We look forward to working with you to protect small business as the 115th Congress moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juanita D. Duggan". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a white background.

Juanita D. Duggan  
President & CEO  
NFIB