

STOP THE

October 17, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gardner,

As members of the Stop The HIT Coalition representing America's small business owners, their employees and the self-employed, we applaud your leadership and efforts to provide much-needed relief from the harmful Health Insurance Tax (HIT). Through the introduction of S. 1859, legislation to delay the HIT, you're providing critical support to the millions of hardworking Americans struggling to afford the cost of rising premiums.

The HIT forces millions of Americans to pay a sales tax on their coverage, driving up the cost of premiums on more than 29 million small business owners and their nearly 60 million employees, as well as middle-class families, Medicaid beneficiaries and those purchasing coverage in the individual market. Absent immediate Congressional action, the HIT will return in 2018 at a rate of \$14.3 billion— further driving up the cost of premiums for small businesses, middle-income families, seniors and young workers struggling to make ends meet.

By suspending this tax, S. 1859 reaffirms Washington's commitment and promise to make coverage more affordable. Indeed, continuing the suspension of the HIT would play an important role in addressing the cost and access challenges facing consumers and small businesses.

We applaud you and your colleagues who joined you in introducing this legislation. In 2015, we were encouraged when a bipartisan group of nearly 400 Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate came together to suspend the HIT for 2017. We are committed to working with you to continue to build support for this effort.

Concerned citizens throughout the country have shared stories of the crushing impact of the HIT on their businesses, families and cost of care. We thank you for hearing their struggles and being their champion on Capitol Hill.

Thank you for fighting for America's small businesses and working to provide HIT relief to those who need it most.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Hotel & Lodging Association

American Rental Association

STOP THE

American Supply Association

Associated Builders and Contractors

Associated General Contractors

Auto Care Association

Colorado Farm Bureau

Independent Electrical Contractors

National Association of Health Underwriters

National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

National Club Association

National Federation of Independent Business

National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association

National Restaurant Association

National Retail Federation

National Roofing Contractors Association

National Small Business Association

Specialty Equipment Market Association

Society of American Florists

CC:

Senator John Barrasso
Senator Roy Blunt
Senator John Cornyn
Senator Tom Cotton

Senator Ted Cruz
Senator Jeff Flake
Senator Dean Heller
Senator Ron Johnson

Senator Jim Inhofe
Senator Mitch McConnell
Senator Rob Portman
Senator Tim Scott