



November 2, 2017

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heitkamp,

As members of the Stop The HIT Coalition representing America's small business owners, their employees and the self-employed, we thank you for your leadership in providing much-needed relief from the harmful Health Insurance Tax (HIT). The introduction of S. 1978 to delay the HIT is a critical step forward for millions of hardworking Americans struggling to afford rising health care costs and premiums.

The HIT drives up the cost of coverage for 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, further driving up the cost of insurance for the middle-class and those struggling to make ends meet.

By advancing a two-year suspension of HIT, S. 1978 provides health insurance cost relief to small business owners, employees, and consumers.

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 Supply Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors
Auto Care Association
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 Retail Federation
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Small Business Association
Society of American Florists
Specialty Equipment Market Association

CC: Sen. Charles Schumer, Senate Minority Leader