

STOP THE HIT

September 19, 2017

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsey Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dean Heller
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy, Graham and Heller,

As members of the Stop The HIT Coalition representing America's small business owners, their employees and the self-employed, we urge you to include relief from the harmful Health Insurance Tax (HIT) in H.R. 1628 – the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan. At a minimum, a 1-year delay would provide critical relief to the millions of hardworking Americans struggling to afford the cost of rising premiums.

We've heard from constituents throughout the country who've shared personally about the crushing impact of the HIT. By forcing millions of Americans to pay a sales tax on their coverage, the HIT drives 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.

With premiums being finalized at the end of September, there is urgency in advancing reforms to address the cost challenges facing millions of Americans. During a recent Senate HELP Committee Hearings, Utah Governor Gary Herbert offered that, "*Congress can immediately reduce the cost of premiums by eliminating the Health Insurance Tax.*"

Indeed, suspending the HIT for 2018 is a common-sense solution that will help address the cost and access challenges plaguing our country. As evidenced by past Congressional efforts, HIT relief enjoys bipartisan support. In 2015, we were encouraged when nearly 400 Republicans and Democrats in the House and the Senate came together to suspend the HIT for 2017. Absent immediate Congressional action, the HIT is projected to 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 afford the cost of care.

Hardworking Americans need your support. As architects of the Graham-Cassidy Health Care Plan, we urge you to include relief from this harmful tax in your resolution.

Sincerely,

Stop The HIT Coalition

CC: The Honorable Mitch McConnell
The Honorable John Cornyn
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Orrin Hatch