

May 30, 2018

The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep.: (FULL HOUSE)

Farm Bureau supports H.R. 5963, the Health Insurance Premium Reduction Act, introduced by Reps. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.), Krysten Sinema (D-Ariz.), Jackie Walorski (R-Ind.), and Ami Bera (D-Calif.) to delay the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2020.

The bill addresses one of the major concerns that farmers and ranchers have related to health insurance – cost. The health insurance tax (HIT) has increased health insurance costs for farmers, ranchers and other small businesses by imposing a levy on the net premiums of health insurance companies, which is passed on to consumers. During 2014, \$8 billion of excise taxes were levied, and \$11 billion was collected in 2015 and 2016 each.

Currently relief from HIT has been extended into 2019 but since the cost of the HIT increases year-over-year, Americans will face an even higher HIT impact on premiums in 2020. This delay is needed to provide stability to small business owners and middle-income families so they can continue health care coverage.

Farm Bureau urges you to support and cosponsor H.R. 5963 to protect farmers, ranchers and other small business owners from exorbitant health care costs.

Sincerely,



Zippy Duvall
President