

STOP THE

July 17, 2018

The Honorable Paul D. Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Democratic Whip
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McCarthy, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Democratic Whip Hoyer:

As members of the [Stop The HIT Coalition](#), we applaud your bipartisan efforts to suspend the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) in 2019 and urge immediate action to protect the nation's 29 million small businesses, their employees, and the self-employed from greater instability, uncertainty, and higher costs as premiums are already being considered and developed for 2020. Relief for 2019 provides an important and meaningful step forward in support of working Americans, however, the pending return of the tax jeopardizes small businesses' financial standing and growth moving forward. We urge you to support America's small businesses and repeal the HIT once and for all.

In 2018 alone, the HIT added more than \$14.3 billion to the cost of coverage, further driving up premiums for small businesses struggling to afford their insurance. According to a report by Oliver Wyman, hardworking families are expected to pay an additional [\\$523](#) annually as a result of the tax. Even more concerning is the impact of the HIT for those who can least afford it – individuals making between [\\$10,000 - \\$50,000](#) bear a disproportionate percentage of the cost due to the return of the HIT.

There should be no doubt about the bipartisan support to provide immediate HIT relief. Legislation to repeal or suspend the HIT has been introduced on a bipartisan basis since 2013 in both the House and Senate. Further, since 2015 Congress passed multiple suspensions of the HIT for benefit years 2017 and 2019. Building on this progress, Congress must focus on ways to provide small businesses with much-needed certainty for 2020 and beyond.

The Stop The HIT Coalition applauds legislation already introduced to support small businesses and repeal the HIT. These critical pieces of legislation offer a common-sense approach to help address health insurance cost concerns facing millions of hardworking Americans.

Small businesses are counting on you to act now to provide HIT relief. We urge Congress to prioritize this action before premiums are proposed for 2020 and would welcome a vote on full repeal on the House floor. Don't leave small businesses holding the bill.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Rental Association
Associated Builders and Contractors
Associated General Contractors
Auto Care Association
Independent Electrical Contractors
National Association of Convenience Stores
National Association of Health Underwriters
National Association of Manufacturers
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors
National Club Association
National Community Pharmacists Association
National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association
National Restaurant Association
National Retail Federation
National Roofing Contractors Association
National Small Business Association
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Printing Industries of America
Retail Industry Leaders Association