

# STOP THE

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn  
Majority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
Minority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Majority Whip Cornyn, and Minority Whip Durbin,

As members of the Stop The HIT Coalition, we urge you to maintain an immediate and permanent repeal of the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) in the Senate version of the American Health Care Act (AHCA).

Our organizations represent America's small business owners, their employees and the self-employed. At a time when these hardworking Americans are struggling to afford the cost of rising premiums, repeal of the HIT would provide critical relief to those who need it most.

Small businesses are the keystone of the American economy, fueling growth in rural and urban communities alike. Unfortunately, the crushing impact of the HIT unfairly targets small business owners and their employees. By driving up the cost of premiums, the HIT cripples their ability to innovate and grow, forcing owners to choose between eliminating jobs or cutting employee benefits.

HIT relief enjoys bipartisan support in both the House and Senate. In 2015, we were encouraged when nearly 400 Republicans and Democrats came together to suspend the tax for one year (2017). Absent immediate Congressional action, the HIT is projected to increase to \$14.3 billion in 2018 – further driving up the cost of premiums for small businesses, middle-income families, seniors and young workers struggling to afford the cost of care. Indeed, more than half of the entire tax is paid by those with incomes between \$10,000 – \$50,000 and estimates show the HIT will cost small businesses and families \$5,000 in higher premiums over a decade.

Millions of hardworking Americans should not bear the burden of misguided tax policies. As leaders of your parties, we urge you to reach across the aisle to provide permanent relief from this harmful tax now, once and for all.



Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Hotel & Lodging Association

American Rental Association

American Supply Association

Associated Builders and Contractors

Auto Care Association

Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.

National Association of Convenience Stores

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

Retail Industry Leaders Association

Society of American Florists