

STOP THE HIT

March 13, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives

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

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, and Minority Leader McCarthy,

As members of the [Stop The HIT Coalition](#), representing the nation's 29 million small businesses, their employees and the self-employed, we commend your continued efforts to improve the affordability of healthcare for millions of American families by suspending the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) for calendar years 2017 and 2019.

We write to you to bring your attention to the concerns we are hearing from American small businesses and consumers about increased healthcare costs if Congress does not suspend the HIT for 2020. With small businesses facing the start of coverage renewals for the upcoming year, it's critical that Congress prioritize HIT suspension as part as the current tax extenders package or other must-pass legislation. This is the essential window for Congressional action before the tax will be factored into premium rate review beginning in the next several weeks.

Suspending the HIT provides essential cost-savings relief and continued stability for small business owners and their employees, seniors and consumers struggling under the weight of rising healthcare costs. In fact, by taking action now to suspend the HIT for 2020 and 2021, Congress can provide families nearly \$1,000 in savings on their premiums over the next two years. For families bearing the brunt of this tax – those making between [\\$10,000 - \\$50,000](#) – this cost-savings goes a measurable way in providing a safety net at the time they need it most.

There is broad support for HIT relief across the country and on Capitol Hill. A recent [national poll conducted by Morning Consult](#) found that a majority of Republicans, Democrats and Independents oppose the HIT and the added costs to consumers' insurance premiums.

Since 2013, HIT relief legislation has been introduced in both the House and Senate on a bipartisan basis and has been signed into law by both President Obama and President Trump. We are encouraged by the continued bipartisan support from leaders in both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives with the introduction of HIT suspension legislation, including the efforts from Sens. John Barrasso (R-WY), Cory Gardner (R-CO), Tim Scott (R-SC), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Doug Jones (D-AL) and Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ) as well as Reps. Ami Bera (D-CA), Josh Gottheimer (D-NJ), Jackie Walorski (R-IN) and Kenny Marchant (R-TX). We urge you to advance S. 172 and H.R. 1398 and extend HIT relief through 2021.

Congress must take action now before premiums are finalized in the coming weeks and small businesses are once again burdened by this misguided tax.

Sincerely,

American Council of Engineering Companies

American Farm Bureau Federation

American Hotel & Lodging Association

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 Home Builders

National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors

National Club Association

National Community Pharmacists Association

National Federation of Independent Business

National Funeral Directors Association

National Lumber & Building Material Dealers Association

National Restaurant Association

National Retail Federation

National Roofing Contractors Association

National Small Business Association

Retail Industry Leaders Association

Petroleum Marketers Association of America

Specialty Equipment Market Association