March 11, 2019

The Honorable Cory Gardner (CO)  The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen (NH)  The Honorable John Barrasso (WY)  
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate  

The Honorable Doug Jones (AL)  The Honorable Tim Scott (SC)  The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema (AZ)  
U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate  U.S. Senate  

Dear Senators Gardner, Shaheen, Barrasso, Jones, Scott and Sinema:

On behalf of the Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage, we write with our strong support for the Health Insurance Tax Relief Act of 2019, S. 172, to provide a two-year delay of the health insurance tax (HIT) under Affordable Care Act (ACA). We appreciate your leadership on this important reform effort which impacts the over 181 million Americans covered through employment-based benefits plans.

The Partnership for Employer-Sponsored Coverage is committed to ensuring that employer-sponsored coverage is strengthened and remains a viable, affordable option for decades to come. Employer-sponsored coverage has been the backbone of our nation’s health system for nearly eight decades. Employers have a vested interest in health care quality, value, and system viability.

For small and mid-size employers who disproportionally rely on coverage through the fully-insured market, in which an employer purchases a pre-designed plan from an insurance carrier, the HIT strikes a direct blow to their plan premiums. The HIT is a direct tax on fully-insured carriers which is passed along to the customer – small and mid-size businesses and the millions of hardworking Americans and their families that are enrolled in this type of employment-based coverage. The inclusion of the HIT was as an offset for other provisions of the ACA. The consequences of this tax levied on the fully-insured market mean higher premiums on employees and employers.

While we strive for a full repeal of the HIT, we appreciate your leadership on introducing S. 172 to provide much needed relief to employees. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your colleagues on this important issue.

Sincerely,

American Hotel & Lodging Association  
American Rental Association  
American Staffing Association  
Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.  
Associated General Contractors of America  
Auto Care Association  
The Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers  
Food Marketing Institute  
HR Policy Association  
International Franchise Association  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Restaurant Association  
National Retail Federation  
Retail Industry Leaders Association  
Society of American Florists  
Society for Human Resource Management

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