

Robyn Boerstling

Vice President

Infrastructure, Innovation and Human Resources Policy

June 15, 2017

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the largest manufacturing association in the United States representing 14,000 manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I am writing to offer our opposition to harmful taxes associated with the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) that weaken employer-sponsored health care.

Manufacturers strongly support the repeal of the ACA because the seven year-old health care law has made it more difficult and costly to provide health care to employees. Manufacturers consistently rank rising health care premiums as a top primary business challenge according to the past several NAM Outlook Surveys conducted each quarter.

Manufacturers urge you to reduce the burden of the employer mandate and repeal of the medical device tax, the 3.8 percent net investment tax, the health insurance tax and the innovation tax. Although the Cadillac tax is currently delayed, manufacturers believe this onerous tax should be fully repealed. These critical changes will help employers contain rising health care costs and provide much-needed predictability so that manufacturers can continue providing quality health care to employees.

Ninety-eight percent of manufactures provide health insurance to their employees. Any changes that weaken ERISA, the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, or change the tax treatment of employer-sponsored health care will further raise costs and could hamper the ability of employers to provide health care benefits.

Manufacturers historically have led the business community in offering health benefits to their employees and are committed to continuing this tradition in the future. Reducing excessive taxes to ensure that manufacturers can continue to provide these benefits must be a primary goal of the Senate's legislation.

The NAM is encouraged by the Senate's timelines to address the repeal of the ACA. The impacts of a volatile health insurance market, legislative uncertainty and anticipated onerous health care taxes cannot be underestimated. Manufacturers appreciate a continued legislative focus to chart a new course for health care and unlock the stranglehold of the ACA on manufacturers.

Sincerely,



Robyn M. Boerstling

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