

Jay Timmons

Executive Vice President

March 24, 2010

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

The National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the nation's largest industrial trade association representing small and large manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, urges you to support the "motion to recommit" amendment offered by Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID) to the budget reconciliation bill, H.R. 4872.

The vast majority of American manufacturers, including 97 percent of NAM member companies, voluntarily offer health benefits not only to attract a skilled workforce, but because we believe it is the right thing to do for our employees. Our members support proposals that reduce soaring health costs, improve the efficiency of the current system and enhance the quality of care.

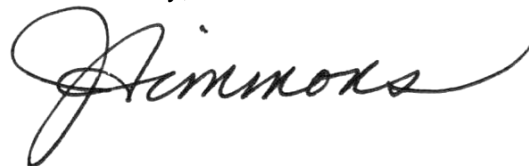
We regret that the recently enacted Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act included provisions that would increase manufacturers' health care costs and would make it more expensive or more difficult for many employers to offer health benefits.

By forcing the removal of provisions in H.R. 4872 that raise taxes on individuals making less than 200,000, the Crapo motion to recommit could reduce costs for thousands of manufacturing workers and their companies by effectively eliminating the excise tax and the limits on Flexible Spending Account (FSA) contributions. The excise taxes on health insurance plans enacted earlier this week will adversely impact many companies with older workforces and/or smaller self-insured plans. The new law's FSA limits curb design flexibility options for manufacturers and place an immediate tax increase on employees that use these tools.

The NAM's Key Vote Advisory Committee has indicated that votes related to the Crapo motion to recommit amendment may be considered for designation as Key Manufacturing Votes in the 111th Congress.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Key Manufacturing Vote