



December 7, 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 urge you to prioritize efforts to address the health care affordability concerns of millions of Americans by suspending the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) as soon as possible.

With year-over-year increases from the HIT expected to raise health care costs by three percent on average annually for small business owners, employees, hardworking families and seniors, Congress should pass legislation to provide HIT relief by year-end. **In fact, the [latest National Health Expenditures data](#) from CMS provides a sobering reminder that the HIT is only adding to the cost burden facing the country. The report states that in 2017—a year when the HIT was suspended—net health care costs were around four percent. Yet, when the HIT was in effect one year later, overall health care spending grew to 13 percent.**

When the HIT returns in full force on January 1, small business employees and their families will pay \$500 more on average for their health coverage next year alone—a cost challenge that Congress can address by suspending the HIT now. This action would provide essential relief from an onerous tax for millions of consumers struggling under the weight of rising health care costs. In fact, by suspending the HIT, Congress could save families an [estimated \\$5,824](#) within a decade. Relief is critical, particularly for the middle-class families that bear the brunt of this tax—those making between [\\$10,000 - \\$50,000 annually](#).

Americans want Congress to take action on health care affordability—with 91 percent of voters surveyed in a recent [national poll saying they](#) are concerned about the increased costs the HIT would bring. Further, 77 percent of those making less than \$50,000 a year say it would be a major concern if their health care costs increased by \$500 annually.

We are encouraged by the broad support for HIT relief we are seeing in local communities across the country and on Capitol Hill. 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. Additionally, the continued bipartisan work of HIT-repeal champions in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives is laudable, including efforts by 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).

Congress must build on this bipartisan leadership and take action now—before the HIT returns and further drives up the cost of health care for small businesses, hardworking families and seniors. We urge you to extend HIT relief today.

Sincerely,

Stop The HIT Coalition