

PROBLEM

The “rising cost of health insurance” has been the number one ranked problem for small businesses for thirty years, according to the NFIB Research Foundation’s quadriennial *Problems and Priorities* survey.

Only 28 percent of businesses with fewer than 50 employees are able to offer expensive group health insurance plans, a decrease of 27 percent from the date of enactment of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Congressional inaction has failed to provide relief from the ACA’s tax increases and insurance requirements that drive up health insurance costs and mandate penalties that deter hiring.

SOLUTION

The American Health Care Act/Better Care Reconciliation Act

- Passed in House by a vote of 217-213 – NFIB Key Vote.
- Expecting Senate consideration – NFIB Key Vote.
- Represents an important first step to providing small businesses with affordable, flexible, and predictable health insurance.

Summary

The American Health Care Act/Better Care Reconciliation Act

- Repeals or delays tax increases and mandate penalties created by the ACA.
- Allows state flexibility from costly federal benefit mandates.
- Improves health savings accounts (HSAs) functionality by increasing contribution limits and allowing HSA funds to pay for health insurance premiums.

NFIB HEALTH REFORM PRINCIPLES

- Affordability
 - Do away with taxes and mandates that drive up the cost of health insurance and inhibit job creation.
 - Equalize the tax treatment of health insurance for small business owners and employees.
 - Eliminate unnecessary compliance burdens.
- Flexibility
 - Increase health insurance options for small business.
 - Permit innovative pooling arrangements.
 - Improve Americans’ ability to save and pay for health care with tax-preferred accounts.
- Predictability
 - Allow individuals and businesses to keep the health insurance they currently enjoy.
 - Prevent disruption of markets where individuals and small business owners purchase health insurance.

