



1201 F St NW #200
Washington, D.C. 20004

1-800-552-5342
NFIB.com

July 24, 2018

Dear Representative:

On behalf of NFIB, the nation's leading small business advocacy organization, I write in support of H.R. 6311, the *Increasing Access to Lower Premium Plans and Expanding Health Savings Accounts Act of 2018*. This legislation lowers health insurance costs and increases health insurance options for small business owners and employees. **H.R. 6311 will be considered an NFIB Key Vote for the 115th Congress.**

The rising cost of health insurance continues to be the number one problem for small business owners, according to NFIB's *Problems and Priorities* survey. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) created a new federal tax on individual and small group market health insurance, which has driven up health insurance costs. As a result, fewer small businesses are able to offer health insurance to their employees compared to when the ACA was enacted.

In February, Congress took an important step toward mitigating health insurance premium increases by providing a one-year moratorium from the small business health insurance tax (HIT) for 2019. Unfortunately, this problematic tax is scheduled to return in 2020, unnecessarily driving up health insurance costs for small business owners and employees. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) long ago confirmed that the tax is "passed through to consumers [small business owners and employees] in the form of higher premiums for private coverage." The HIT falls solely on the fully-insured market, where nearly all small businesses and individuals purchase their insurance. H.R. 6311 suspends the HIT for an additional two years until 2022, resulting in more affordable premiums for small business owners and employees.

The legislation also expands access to more affordable "copper" health insurance plans, increasing flexibility for small business owners and employees who purchase individual market health insurance. Additionally, the bill improves the utility of consumer-driven health insurance products such as health savings accounts (HSAs) and flexible spending arrangements (FSAs).

NFIB strongly supports passage of H.R. 6311 and will consider a vote in favor of the legislation an NFIB Key Vote for the 115th Congress. NFIB supports affordable, flexible, and predictable health insurance options for small business owners and employees, and this legislation helps achieve those goals.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juanita D. Duggan".

Juanita D. Duggan
President & CEO
NFIB