

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

NEIL L. BRADLEY  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT &  
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October 11, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce applauds your introduction of S. 1859, the “Healthcare Tax Relief Act,” which would extend the moratorium on the annual fee on health insurance providers.

S. 1859 would provide critical and timely relief from the Affordable Care Act’s perverse and harmful tax on health insurance premiums, which would further increase already escalating premiums for tens of millions of Americans. If the health insurance tax (HIT) comes into effect in 2018, it will harm Americans purchasing many different types of insurance including individuals, families, small businesses, larger companies, and seniors covered with Medicare Advantage as well as Medicare Part D prescription drug coverage.

In 2018 alone, the HIT will increase premiums for families purchasing coverage in the large group market by more than \$500 according to actuarial analysis performed by experts at Oliver Wyman.

Further, because of the regulations implementing the tax, the amount collected in 2018 through higher premiums is even more than the \$14.3 billion attributable to the statutory fees. As a result, the total premium impact of the HIT in 2018 on hard-working Americans and retirees will be as much as \$22.0 billion.

Repealing the HIT is a vital and necessary step to make health insurance more affordable for small businesses and individuals.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley