

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

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

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

The U.S Chamber of Commerce urges you to fully fund cost sharing reduction (CSR) payments and extend the suspension of the Health Insurance Tax (HIT) through 2019. Swift enactment of these two priorities will provide immediate help for millions of Americans struggling to afford coverage in the individual and small group health insurance markets.

Under the Affordable Care Act, certain low-income individuals are protected from co-payment, co-insurance and deductible expenses when they access health care services. Insurers offering plans to these individuals are compensated for these costs through CSR payments. If the administration stops these payments, insurers will still be legally required to limit out-of-pocket costs, and may have to raise premiums by as much as 20% to offset the cost.

Similarly, the reimposition of the HIT in less than four months threatens to further raise premiums for millions of Americans. According to one recent study, imposing the tax in 2018 would hit families in the small group market, which serves small business across the country, with a \$500 premium increase, and seniors enrolled in Medicare Advantage would face \$245 in additional costs. The impact of the tax is significant and extends well beyond those in the individual market, increasing premiums for tens-of-millions small business owners, employees, and senior citizens.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce urges you to take swift action on these two priorities before the American people see their insurance costs rise even higher.

Sincerely,



Neil L. Bradley

cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions