

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

May 6, 2015

The Honorable Phil Roe, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Roe:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses of all sizes, sectors, and regions, as well as state and local chambers and industry associations, and dedicated to promoting, protecting, and defending America's free enterprise system, thanks you for introducing H.R. 1423, the "Self-Insurance Protection Act." This bill would ensure that the definition of health insurance coverage would not improperly encompass certain medical stop-loss insurance used by self-insured health plans and plan sponsors of group health plans as a form of financial protection.

Many businesses decide to offer their employees health benefits through self-insured plans. Employers that self-insure, particularly small- to mid-sized businesses, purchase stop-loss insurance to protect the plan and plan sponsor in the event of unexpected catastrophic losses. H.R. 1423 would guarantee that employers would continue to have this effective option of providing quality health benefits by limiting further regulation of self-insurance. Providing this clarification to the law would ensure that federal regulators cannot redefine stop-loss insurance as traditional health insurance.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services continues to show interest in the possibility of regulating stop-loss insurance, which raises concerns that future regulations may make the administration of self-insured plans more burdensome and expensive for employers. In addition to making self-insurance coverage less appealing, including stop-loss insurance in the definition of health insurance coverage could effectively force many self-insured entities using stop-loss insurance to discontinue their plans. In light of this tumultuous and highly transitional time for the country's private sector health insurance system, it is critical to ensure that businesses continue to have a variety of accessible options to offer their workers quality health care coverage.

The Chamber continues to support health care reform that builds on and reinforces the employer-sponsored system and looks forward to working with you and your colleagues to enact

this important bill to protect the American workforce and the businesses that drive the nation's job creation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "R." and last name "Josten" being the most prominent parts.

R. Bruce Josten