

STARTOVER!

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May 18, 2011

Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Charles W. Boustany, Jr., MD
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Hatch and Congressman Boustany:

The undersigned write on behalf Start Over! to thank you for introducing S. 20 and H.R. 1744, *American Job Protection Act* bills proposing to repeal the employer mandate enacted as part of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (“PPACA”) (PL 111-148). Start Over! is a coalition of more than 250 trade associations representing employers of all sizes across the entire span of the U.S. economy.

As health care costs have skyrocketed over the years, employers have found it necessary to share these rising costs with their employees and, in some cases, scale back benefits. Consequently, the employer community has strongly supported health care reform that focuses on reducing costs, expanding coverage and improving quality.

During the evolution of the health care reform debate in the 111th Congress, policy makers regrettably lost sight of the issue of cost and instead adopted an approach to expand coverage which will *increase* national health expenditures, *increase* public health care expenditures, and *increase* health care costs borne by employers and households. Ironically, PPACA violates one of the core principles guiding the ethical practice of medicine—“First, do no harm.” Instead, this “reform” will make the health care cost problem, from which the coverage problem flows, even *worse*. It is for this reason that Start Over! continues to support PPACA’s full repeal.

The employer mandate is a primary example of how problematic PPACA is and how far this reform attempt missed the mark. By introducing S. 20 and H.R. 1744, you clearly recognize that the employer mandate in PPACA will do *nothing* to reduce health care costs and expand affordable coverage. Further, you appreciate that PPACA’s employer mandate clearly harms jobs. This mandate discourages business expansion, economic growth and job creation and puts workers’ jobs, wages and benefits on the chopping block.

Start Over! applauds you for sponsoring these important bills and urges all Senators to cosponsor S. 20 and all Members of the House to cosponsor H.R. 1744.

Sincerely,

THE STARTOVER! COALITION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

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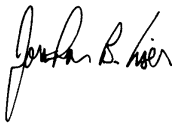
Geoffrey Burr, Vice President-Government Affairs
Associated Builders and Contractors



Stephen E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer
Associated General Contractors



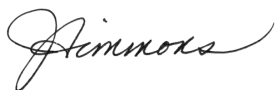
Steve Hinton, Political Affairs Director
Independent Electrical Contractors



Jon Eisen, Senior Vice President-Government Relations
International Foodservice Distributors Association



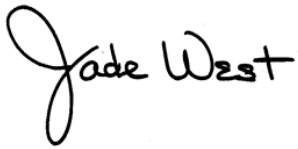
Stephen J. Caldeira, President & Chief Executive Officer
International Franchise Association



Jay Timmons, President
National Association of Manufacturers

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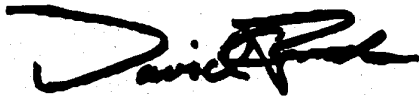
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Jade West, Senior Vice President-Government Relations
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



Dan Danner, President & CEO
National Federation of Independent Business



David French, Senior Vice President-Government Relations
National Retail Federation



Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council



R. Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President-Government Affairs
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: All Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives