



United States House of Representatives
WASHINGTON, DC 20515

February 1, 2005

HELP HARD-WORKING AMERICANS GET HEALTH CARE THEY CAN AFFORD

Dear Colleague:

The unprecedented increases in the cost of health care are forcing employers – especially small businesses – to drop their health insurance coverage.

This week Rep. Sam Johnson, along with Rep. Nydia Velazquez, is introducing the “Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005.”

This bill passed with bipartisan support last year and would allow small businesses to band together in bona-fide trade associations to form Association Health Plans (AHP’s). Employers would benefit from economies of scale, increased administrative efficiency, and the same freedom from burdensome state regulations that many large employers and unions already enjoy. The bottom line: cost-savings that translate into new and better benefits for employees and their families.

AHP’s are the right answer for small businesses. We hope you’ll support this common-sense, bipartisan legislation. If you have questions, please contact Nikki Miller in Rep. Sam Johnson’s office at 5-4201.

Sincerely,

/s/

SAM JOHNSON
Member of Congress

Cosponsors of last year’s legislation (HR 660) included: Aderholt, Akin, Barrett, Bartlett, Barton, Beauprez, Biggert, Blackburn, Blunt, Boehner, Bonilla, Bonner, Bono, Bradley, Brady, Brown, Brown-Waite, Burgess, Burton, Calvert, Cantor, Capito, Carter, Case, Chabot, Chocola, Cole, Cooper, Costello, Cox, Cramer, Crenshaw, Cubin, Culberson, Cunningham, J. Davis, L. Davis, Deal, DeLay, Diaz-Balart, Doolittle, Duncan, Ehlers, English, Everett, Faleomavaega, Feeney, Foley, Fossella, Franks, Gibbons, Gillmor, Gingrey, Gonzalez, Goodlatte, Granger, Graves, Gutknecht, Harris, Hart, Hastert, Hefley, Hensarling, Herger, Hobson, Hostettler, Hulshof, Hyde, Israel, Issa, Istook, Jenkins, S. Johnson, W. Jones, Keller, Kelly, Kennedy, S. King, Kirk, Kolbe, LaHood, Latham, Manzullo, McHugh, McIntyre, McKeon, Mica, G. Miller, J. Miller, Moran, Musgrave, Myrick, Napolitano, Neugebauer, Ney, Northup, Paul, Pearce, Peterson, Petri, Pickering, Pitts, Platts, Pryce, Radanovich, Rehberg, Renzi, H. Rogers, M. Rogers (AL and MI), Ros-Lehtinen, Ryan, L. Sanchez, Sensenbrenner, Sessions, Shadegg, Shaw, Shays, Shimkus, Shuster, Simmons, L. Smith, Stearns, Sullivan, Tancredo, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Thornberry, Tiahrt, Tiberi, M. Turner, Upton, Velazquez, C. Weldon, D. Weldon, Weller, Whitfield, Wicker, Wilson, Wolf, Wynn