

September 19, 2013

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

The Honorable Steve Scalise
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Reps. Roe and Scalise:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, 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. 3121, the "American Health Care Reform Act of 2013." The Chamber appreciates your leadership in contributing to the ongoing discussion of health care reform by not only addressing the burdens on employers and the workforce, but also proposing ways to improve access to affordable coverage for all Americans, promote competition in the health care market, and advance medical liability reform.

The Chamber has long supported health care reform that addresses the uncontrollable costs of our current health care system, improves the overall quality of health care, and expands meaningful coverage to the uninsured. In light of the serious consequences of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) that are affecting employers and employees alike, it is crucial to continue to evaluate reform options that decrease the current strain on our nation's job creators.

As the recently released report from the Chamber's Health Care Solutions Council delineates, further reforms are necessary if we are to realize lower costs, innovative and high-quality care, and better health for all Americans. A sustainable health care system must build upon the successes in the private sector and reinforce the strengths of the employer-sponsored health care system instead of imposing mandates, new taxes and penalties, and limiting flexibility.

We must continue to explore how to achieve the goals of bringing costs under control, adding value to the health care system, and ensuring that we provide an atmosphere where employers can focus on revitalizing the economy. The Chamber thanks you again for introducing H.R. 3121 and for your dedicated efforts to provide constructive ideas for addressing the serious challenges of our health care system. The Chamber looks forward to working with you and your colleagues towards the shared goal of health care reform that supports American jobs and the employers who create them.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten