



January 17, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204 US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

I am writing on behalf of the National Small Business Association (NSBA) in relation to the scheduled Jan. 19 vote on *Repealing the Job-Killing Health Care Law Act* (H.R. 2) and H. Res 9, which instructs certain House committees to report legislation replacing the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* [PPACA, P.L. 111-148], as amended by the *Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010* [HCERA, P.L. 111-152].

NSBA is the nation's oldest small-business advocacy group representing employers in every state. As a strictly non-partisan organization, we reach more than 150,000 small businesses representing all sectors and industries of the U.S. economy from retail to trade to technology—our members are as diverse as the economy which they fuel.

NSBA's members have continually voted health care reform among the top one or two priorities for the last decade. In response, NSBA has advocated for a broad reform proposal developed in 2003 that seeks to: achieve universal coverage; focus on individual responsibility and empowerment; create the right market-based incentives; and focus on improving quality while driving out unnecessary, wasteful, and harmful care.

While PPACA attempted to address many of these goals, it failed to sufficiently achieve the most important factor for small businesses in health care reform; that is, to bring down the cost of health care and lower insurance premiums for all individuals. Thus, despite the extraordinary needs of small businesses for a sustainable health care system, NSBA opposed PPACA. However, the flaws of PPACA do not obviate the ongoing small-business need for health care reform and cost containment. Thus, while NSBA supports H.R. 2, it is only with the understanding that replacement legislation would come forth that places health care cost reduction and containment initiatives paramount.

For these reasons, NSBA also supports H. Res 9, which instructs House committees with jurisdiction over health care issues to report legislation that will ameliorate the shortcomings of PPACA. NSBA strongly believes that the key to meaningful health care reform is to first address the unsustainable growth in health care costs paid by employers and consumers. In large part, health care costs were the impetus for health care reform in 2009. Unfortunately,

over a prolonged, contentious 15 month debate, this goal was marginalized in PPACA. It is time to get back to small businesses number one health care reform priority: reducing health care costs and premiums while improving health care quality.

NSBA looks forward to working with you in crafting new policies that strengthen our nation's health care system by improving quality and access to care while reducing the rising costs of health insurance to individuals and employers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd McCracken". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "T" and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Todd O. McCracken
President