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August 31, 2017

The Honorable Carlos Curbelo
U.S. House of Representatives
1404 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Florida Chamber of Commerce Urges Quick Action on Health Insurance Tax

Dear Congressman Curbelo:

On behalf of the Florida Chamber of Commerce, I encourage your support of efforts to repeal, or quickly extend the delay of, the Affordable Care Act's (ACA) health insurance tax.

While Congress has taken bipartisan action in the past to delay this tax – a bipartisan agreement in 2015 deferred the health insurance tax for 2017 – it is now set to resume on January 1, 2018. Further, the tax is increasing by 26% to \$14.3 billion in 2018. This means that Florida families, seniors, and employers will all face even higher costs in 2018.

On August 8, 2017, actuarial consulting firm Oliver Wyman released an analysis of the impact that the return and increase of the ACA's health insurance tax will have on premiums from 2018 to 2027. According to the analysis, in 2018 alone, the health insurance tax will cost Floridians \$1.7 billion in higher health insurance premiums.

In some cases, our members are already facing the burden of this tax as they have renewed their 2018 health insurance policies by now. For employers, these higher healthcare costs will mean fewer resources to invest in new equipment, hire more workers, and contribute to growing the Florida economy. By extending the delay of this tax, Congress has the opportunity to lower Floridians' health insurance premiums directly.

If Congress cannot repeal the health insurance tax outright, the Florida Chamber strongly encourages an additional delay of the tax. As always, I appreciate your partnership as we work to secure Florida's future.

Sincerely,

Frank Walker
Vice President, Governmental Affairs
Florida Chamber of Commerce

CC: Florida Congressional Delegation
Mark Wilson, President & CEO, Florida Chamber of Commerce
David Hart, Executive Vice President, Florida Chamber of Commerce

Florida's Business Advocate