

July 9, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Republican Leader McConnell:

On behalf of key employer associations, we believe it is critical to provide you with input from the employer community that currently provides health insurance coverage for over 170 million Americans. The business community has been supportive of reform, as health care costs have continued to rise much faster than the rate of inflation. However, we believe that the process for consideration of reform needs to give the Committees of jurisdiction the appropriate time and process to carefully consider the impact of this legislation.

We strongly urge you to encourage the Senate Finance Committee to continue its discussions on a bipartisan basis to reach consensus on how to improve our health care system and continue to identify ways to expand coverage, without dramatically affecting those who do have coverage. We believe that careful consideration of the issues that affect 17 percent of our economy need to be done within the Committees of jurisdiction.

Thank you for your support for bipartisan health care reform. We look forward to working with you to identify legislation that will reduce health care costs, ensure quality, expand coverage to those who can't afford it, and will preserve the employment-based health care system.

Sincerely yours,

American Benefits Council
Business Roundtable
Corporate Healthcare Coalition
The ERISA Industry Committee
National Association of Manufacturers
National Business Group on Health
National Federation of Independent Business
National Retail Federation
U.S. Chamber of Commerce