



March 12, 2019

The Honorable Ami Bera  
1727 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jackie Walorski  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Josh Gottheimer  
213 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kenny Marchant  
2304 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Bera:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to express our strong support for H.R. 1398, "To delay the reimposition of the annual fee on health insurance providers until after 2021." Thank you for introducing this important legislation that would delay the health insurance tax (HIT) until after 2021.

HLC is a coalition of chief executives from all disciplines within American healthcare. It is the exclusive forum for the nation's healthcare leaders to jointly develop policies, plans, and programs to achieve their vision of a 21st century healthcare system that makes affordable high-quality care accessible to all Americans. Members of HLC – hospitals, academic health centers, health plans, pharmaceutical companies, medical device manufacturers, laboratories, biotech firms, health product distributors, post-acute care providers, home care providers, and information technology companies – advocate for measures to increase the quality and efficiency of healthcare through a patient-centered approach.

Like you, HLC supports giving Americans access to affordable healthcare. The health insurance tax was delayed by previous legislation, but the suspension will elapse at the end of 2019. As health insurers are finalizing their rates for 2020, Congress must act soon to eliminate this counterproductive tax altogether or, at the very least, extend their suspensions.

An [analysis](#) by Oliver Wyman documented the impact of the health insurance tax, if reinstated by the end of 2019. Americans with virtually any form of health insurance will see a premium increase. For example, families in either the large or small group markets would see their annual premiums rise by more than \$450. An individual in the non-group market would pay nearly \$200 more. This tax does not only impact people in the health insurance exchange but also across all forms of health insurance. Medicare Advantage enrollees, for example, would experience an average premium jump of \$241.

HLC strongly believes that to protect those consumers Congress needs to delay or repeal the HIT now. This repeal or delay must be included in the next legislative vehicle being considered by Congress before it is too late to change premium rates for 2020.

Thank you again for your work on H.R. 1398 and your efforts to protect consumers from unaffordable premiums. HLC looks forward to continuing to collaborate with you on this important issue. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Debbie Witchey at (202) 449-3435 or [dwitchey@hlc.org](mailto:dwitchey@hlc.org).

Sincerely,



Mary R. Grealy  
President

cc:

The Honorable Andy Biggs  
The Honorable Julia Brownley  
The Honorable Larry Bucshon  
The Honorable Mike Kelly  
The Honorable Tom O'Halleran  
The Honorable David Roe  
The Honorable David Schweikert  
The Honorable Jason Smith  
The Honorable Elise Stefanik