



November 20, 2017

The Honorable Cory Gardner  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Gardner:

On behalf of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC), I am writing to express our strong support for S. 1859, the “Healthcare Tax Relief Act.” Thank you for introducing this important legislation that would delay the health insurance tax (HIT) for a year.

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, pharmacies, post-acute 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. Recognizing this need, Congress delayed the HIT through 2017. An [analysis](#) by Oliver Wyman found that the moratorium reduced health insurance premiums by three percent.

Unless Congress repeals or again delays the HIT, the tax will take effect on January 1, which will lead to \$22 billion in increased premiums in 2018. This increase will have a detrimental impact not only on consumers on the individual health insurance exchange, but also on small business owners, large employers, seniors covered by the Medicare Advantage and Part D prescription drug programs, Medicaid managed care beneficiaries, and stand-alone dental and vision plan enrollees since the tax applies to all of these programs. In total, the HIT will affect more than 100 million Americans.

HLC strongly believes that to protect those consumers, Congress needs to delay or repeal the HIT. This repeal or delay must be included in any “must pass” legislative vehicles considered by Congress this year.

Thank you again for your work on S. 1859 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.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Greal". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" being the most prominent.

Mary R. Greal  
President