



February 4, 2015

Dear [Insert Senator],

As a representative of the 28 million small businesses in America, Small Business Majority urges you to support the Small Business Tax Credit Accessibility Act, sponsored by Senators Chris Coons, D-Del., and Jeff Merkley, D-Ore. As a result of the small business tax credit created by the Affordable Care Act, more small businesses are able to provide health insurance for employees and their families. In fact, more than 3.2 million small businesses qualified in 2011 for the tax credit to offset employer health plan costs, according to Small Business Majority's research. However, many small businesses are ineligible for the credit or are discouraged by the complexity of its requirements.

The Small Business Tax Credit Accessibility Act will help address this by simplifying and expanding the small business healthcare tax credit. The legislation increases the maximum size of businesses eligible to receive the credits and extends the credit to firms with higher average wages. What's more, it simplifies the tax credit calculation and increases the number of years for which a small business may receive the tax credit to three consecutive years.

These changes to the tax credit will go a long way towards helping more small business owners afford to purchase small group plans through the new health insurance marketplaces. We know from our research that many small business owners want to offer health insurance to their employees, but can't afford to do so. In fact, Small Business Majority's scientific [opinion polling](#) found 55% of small business owners provide insurance to at least some of their employees, but of those who don't offer it, 70% say it's because they can't afford it. What's more, according to a study by the President's Council of Economic Advisors, small businesses have paid [18% more](#) on average for health coverage than large companies in the past and usually received fewer comprehensive benefits. Small businesses have been waiting for decades for something to help bring down their costs, and the new marketplaces and small business tax credits have the ability to do that.

The tax credit included in the healthcare law has helped many small businesses better afford health insurance, but it can do more. Expanding the credit and simplifying the process to claim it will help countless small businesses better afford health insurance for their employees. Small businesses have been asking that the credits be simplified and expanded for years.

We urge you to pass the Small Business Tax Credit Accessibility Act in order to help more small employers afford to offer health insurance to their employees.

Sincerely,

John Arensmeyer, Founder & CEO
Small Business Majority