



*A big vision for small business*

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December 8, 2009

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
United States Senate  
702 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

On behalf of small business owners all across the country, I want to express the sincere appreciation of the national Main Street Alliance for your efforts and those of your colleagues to strengthen provisions of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" creating incentives for more efficient delivery of health care services and gaining greater control over the rapidly rising cost of health care. As you know, one of the most serious problems confronting our nation's small business owners and employees is the unbridled increase in the cost of health care coverage and the lack of real choices for affordable health insurance coverage.

Our small business owners are grateful for the underlying provisions of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" that lay a strong foundation for improving health care cost containment, particularly in the Medicare program. Reforms such as these are critical to moving toward creating health plans that provide high quality services at prices that small business owners and employees can afford.

The amendment proposed by you and your colleagues goes even farther, building on the bill's framework by significantly expanding those underlying provisions with more aggressive efforts to reduce administrative costs and encouraging a more rapid transition of the health care delivery system to models that incentivize high-value, low-cost care. We are particularly pleased to see that your amendment reaches beyond Medicare to extend cost containment initiatives into the private sector where small business owners seek their health coverage. Encouragement of public-private arrangements to prevent cost-shifting and to harmonize changes in the health care system are important steps toward providing more efficient health services at a cost more affordable for small businesses.

The Main Street Alliance is pleased to support your effort to include these important cost containment provisions in the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." We believe steps such as the ones you propose are essential to reform our health care system and rein in spending on medical care, and we thank you and your colleagues for your leadership in improving this landmark reform legislation. We pledge to continue to work with you and your colleagues to ensure better access to affordable, high-value health care services and to see comprehensive health care reform enacted into law this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dave Mason'.

Dave Mason  
Legislative and Policy Director  
The Main Street Alliance