

From: AFTRA <afranetwork@aflra.com>

To: Kathy Boss <kjboss@aol.com>

Subject: Tell Your Representatives Not to Tax Middle-Class Health Benefits

Date: Sat, Jan 9, 2010 8:41 pm

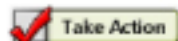
American Federation of Television & Radio Artists

Don't Tax Middle-Class Health Benefits

Dear Kathy Boss,



AFTRA members are among millions of working Americans who will be seriously harmed by a proposed tax on health care benefits currently proposed in the latest version of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (H.R. 3590). A tax on middle-class Americans' health benefits is the wrong way to finance health care reform. Won't you please take a couple minutes to call or write your representatives in Washington D.C. and tell them there are better ways to pay for health care reform.



Send a letter to the following decision maker(s):

Your Congressperson
Your Senators

Below is the sample letter:

Subject: Protect the Health Care Benefits of the Middle Class

Dear [decision maker name automatically inserted here],

As a member and/or supporter of the American Federation of Television and and Radio Artists, a union representing more than 70,000 members, I am urging you to take out of the Patient Protection and Affordable Car (H.R. 3590) a provision that would burden the middle-class with a tax on their benefits.

A tax, like the one in H.R. 3590, would hurt middle-class and low-wage working union members who have negotiated over the years for health benefits at the expense of higher wages to keep pace with the high cost of health care.

Members of AFTRA, for example, participate in the AFTRA Health and Retirement Fund, a multi-employer health and pension fund that provides health insurance to members. Many members struggle to earn a middle-class living -- a struggle that has been exacerbated by the decline in our economy, as well as the devastating crashes of the investment market at the beginning and end of the last decade.

Take Action!

Instructions:

Click here to take action on this issue

Tell-A-Friend:

Visit the web address below to tell your friends about this.

Tell-a-Friend!

What's At Stake:

At stake is the ability for middle-class Americans to access and afford health care. A benefits tax would result in increased costs and less benefits.

Campaign Expiration Date:

February 7, 2010

By estimate, a tax like this would cost the AFTRA Health Plan \$6.4 million in 2013, which could result in benefit cuts and would place a significant financial burden on members who rely on their union's health plan to provide basic health benefits. The tax would, ultimately, raise the cost to members, making their health plans less affordable.

The goal of health care reform is to make it both accessible and affordable for average Americans. A tax like this would defeat that goal.

Simply put, a tax on middle-class Americans' health benefits is the wrong way to finance health care reform.

Sincerely,

Kathy Boss

