February 28, 2017

The Honorable Sam Johnson U.S. House of Representatives 2304 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515 The Honorable Tim Walberg U.S. House of Representatives 2436 Rayburn House Office Building Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Johnson and Walberg:

The undersigned groups thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 1101, the Small Business Health Fairness Act. This legislation allows small businesses an option to access affordable health insurance coverage through Association Health Plans (AHPs) and is a step towards building a more competitive market.

The rising cost of health insurance remains a major problem for small business owners. In 2015, 25 percent fewer small businesses offered health insurance than when the Affordable Care Act (ACA) passed in 2010, a significant drop in small business coverage. As health insurance costs continue to increase, fewer employers and working families can afford coverage.

We believe AHPs will help lower the cost of health insurance by allowing small business owners the same opportunities that larger businesses now experience. AHPs will allow small business owners to band together across state lines through their membership in a bona fide trade or professional association to purchase health coverage. Establishing health insurance benefits through associations will make coverage more affordable by spreading risk among a much larger group, strengthening negotiating power with plans and providers, and reducing administrative costs.

Thank you again for your leadership on this issue. As congressional action takes place to replace the ACA with market-based solutions, we look forward to working with you to improve the health insurance markets where small businesses and employees purchase coverage. Small business needs legislative solutions that lower health insurance costs and increase flexibility to maintain a competitive workforce.

Sincerely,

4A's - American Association of Advertising Agencies Air Conditioning Contractors of America American Council of Engineering Companies American Farm Bureau Federation American Foundry Society American Hotel & Lodging Association American Rental Association American Society of Association Executives American Veterinary Medical Association Associated Builders and Contractors Associated General Contractors Auto Care Association Electronic Security Association Far West Equipment Dealers Association Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association Independent Electrical Contractors International Franchise Association Manufacturers Education and Training Alliance of CT National Association of Chemical Distributors National Association of Home Builders National Association of Manufacturers National Association of REALTORS® National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors National Federation of Independent Business National Restaurant Association National Retail Federation National Roofing Contractors Association National Tooling and Machining Association National Utility Contractors Association North American Die Casting Association Precision Machined Products Association Precision Metalforming Association Self-Insurance Institute of America, Inc. Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council U.S. Chamber of Commerce Western Equipment Dealers Association