



December 15, 2014

The Honorable Charles Boustany, M.D.
U.S. House of Representatives
1431 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Boustany and Thompson,

On behalf of America's 23 million self-employed and micro-business owners, the American Independent Business Coalition, Southern Consumers Alliance, and the National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) are pleased to provide enthusiastic support for H.R. 5860, *Small Business Healthcare Relief Act of 2014*, which would allow for standalone health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) for small employers (with 49 employees or less).

For over a decade, HRAs have been a key tool for small employers to provide their employees with minimal financial assistance for qualified health care expenses. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the 2013 decision by the Departments of Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor to tie key lifetime or annual limits and coverage of preventive health services to small employers offering an HRA was a gross infringement on the small business community. The change resulted in a particularly negative impact on small employers with 49 or less employees that are under no legal obligation to provide a qualified healthcare plan for their employees under the employer mandate of the ACA.

The self-employed and micro-businesses (10 or less employees) that the NASE and the above organizations represent, view the decision by the Departments of Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor, as limiting them in trying to do the right thing by *providing financial assistance to their employees for health care costs*.

We applaud your leadership on this incredibly important legislation and look forward to working with you in the 114th Congress and advancing this through the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Vlietstra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Vlietstra
Vice President of Government Relations & Public Affairs
National Association for the Self-Employed