



March 24, 2010

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

KEY VOTE

Dear Senator:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national association with 77 chapters representing 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms with 2 million employees, we are writing to express our strong opposition to H.R.4872, the “Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010.” **ABC strongly urges Senators to oppose this legislation, and will consider votes on the reconciliation bill, related amendments and procedural motions as “KEY VOTES” for our 111th Congressional Scorecard.**

ABC has always been a strong advocate for policies that reduce the cost of health care for employers and employees. The bill (H.R.3590) signed into law yesterday by President Obama and this bill, H.R. 4872, do nothing to bend down the cost curve, and instead simply enroll more Americans in a broken and unsustainable health care system.

We do appreciate that this measure omits the Merkley Amendment language contained in H.R. 3590 that specifically singled out the construction industry by altering the small business exemption so that it applied only to those firms with at 5 employees or less—an extraordinary difference from the 50 employee threshold that every other American small business will enjoy. However, Congress should not be congratulated for its equitable treatment of an industry currently experiencing upwards of 27 percent unemployment, the highest of any industry sector.

This bill will impose \$28 billion in new taxes on employers that do not provide government approved health plans. In the worst construction economy in decades, it is unfathomable that anyone could think this sort of vast financial imposition on employers is either prudent or viable.

Furthermore, we strongly oppose using budget reconciliation to pass such an expansive piece of legislation. Congress should be allowed to address each portion of this bill and be afforded the time to thoroughly debate the merits of the provisions contained within this legislation. Manipulating a deficit reduction process to force through a controversial and partisan measure such as this is an abuse of power.

ABC believes that health care is best administered on free market principles and furthermore, we do not believe that enrolling millions more people in a broken healthcare system constitutes effective reform. ABC urges your opposition to H.R. 4872 and will count votes on this legislation as **“KEY VOTES” for our 111th Congressional Scorecard.**

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Burr

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Burr', written over a horizontal line.

Vice President, Federal Affairs
Associated Builders and Contractors