



April 14, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman, Subcommittee on Health
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jim McDermott
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Brady and Ranking Member McDermott:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national construction industry trade association with 70 chapters representing nearly 21,000 chapter members, I am writing in regard to today's hearing on the individual and employer mandates in the President's health care law and the associated penalties.

Providing quality health care benefits is a top priority for ABC and its member companies. ABC continues to call on Congress to advance common-sense health care solutions that will provide greater choice and affordability and allow private insurers to compete for business.

On March 23, 2010, President Obama signed into law the massive health care law, known as the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Five years later, the ACA continues to create uncertainty and confusion in the construction industry, making it difficult for the nation's contractors to plan for the future and create jobs.

Generally, under the employer mandate provisions of the ACA, employers with 50 or more full-time employees and full-time equivalent employees must offer full-time employees a certain level of coverage or be subject to a penalty. The increased costs related to this onerous mandate continue to be of significant concern to ABC members. ABC has advocated for repeal of the employer mandate and is in full support of Rep. Boustany's *American Job Protection Act* (H.R. 248), which would repeal the job-killing employer mandate provisions.

By forcing employers to offer government-prescribed health insurance, ABC members will no longer have the choice or flexibility to structure health care coverage options that meet the needs of their fluctuating workforce. The resulting increased costs will jeopardize the ability of ABC member companies to maintain affordable coverage options for their employees and force some to drop coverage all together.

In addition, the implementation of the ACA's employer mandate provisions requires significant employer education. The regulations implementing the employer mandate are complex and confusing and many questions remain.

We appreciate your attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to repeal the burdensome and costly employer mandate.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Burr
Vice President, Government Affairs