



November 21, 2017

Dear Senators Heitkamp, Donnelly, and Shaheen:

On behalf of the leading geriatric and nursing groups throughout the country, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in the introduction of S. 1978, the *Small Business and Family Health Tax Relief Act*, which would address the urgent issue of the return of the Tax on Health Insurance in 2018. We strongly encourage Congress to act immediately, before the tax on health insurance, often referred to as the HIT, will take effect January 1, 2018 and negatively impact over 156 million Americans, including nearly 20 million seniors.


The return of this harmful tax means higher costs for seniors. Nearly 20 million Medicare Advantage beneficiaries and over 40 million Part D beneficiaries will be negatively impacted. Throughout the U.S., seniors will see premiums increase by \$510 per couple in 2018 alone, according to a recent Oliver Wyman analysis. Seniors rely on Medicare Advantage because of the high-quality, coordinated care it provides Americans as they age. The return of the tax could jeopardize the stability and quality the Medicare Advantage beneficiaries depend on.

This tax is particularly impactful because half of the seniors impacted have incomes of less than \$26,000 a year. This unexpected rise in costs could be devastating for seniors who have carefully planned and budgeted for their retirement. Nationwide, the toll of this tax will be \$22 billion in higher premiums for the more than 156 million Americans in 2018.

Congress, in a bipartisan effort, delayed the tax for 2017, lowering premiums by 3 percent and saving the health care system \$21.4 billion. It's time for lawmakers to act again, and your legislation is an important step to addressing this harmful tax by suspending it for two-years. We applaud you and Senators Joe Donnelly (D-IN) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) for introducing S. 1978.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to support this bill, and we hope your fellow lawmakers will recognize that further suspension of this tax is necessary before the end of the year. Seniors are counting on you.

Sincerely,



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GAPNA, Immediate Past President

AALNA, American Assisted Living Nursing Association  
AANAC, American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination  
AGS, American Geriatrics Society  
AMDA, Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine  
HIGN, Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing  
NADONA/LTC, National Association of Directors of Nursing Administration in Long Term Care  
SUNA, Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates