

# STARTOVER!

1325 G STREET NW SUITE 1000, WASHINGTON, DC 20005 (202) 872-0885

March 19, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Boehner  
Republican Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Madame Speaker and Mr. Leader:

We write on behalf of Start Over!, a coalition of approximately 250 trade associations representing employers of all sizes, to express strong opposition to H.R. 3590, the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”, H.R. 4872, the “Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010” (“the reconciliation bill”) and the rule for the consideration of the reconciliation bill.

Our opposition to the health care agenda that is embraced by H.R. 3590 and H.R. 4872 taken together is grounded in the following major concerns:

- These bills are job killers. The reconciliation bill makes the Senate bill worse by proposing to triple the penalty on covered employers who cannot afford to provide coverage to their employees, and more than double the maximum penalty for employers who offer coverage that doesn’t measure up. These measures, by themselves, are clear disincentives to job creation and a bad idea anytime, and particularly in a jobs-starved economy.
- The tax increases – including (for the first time) imposition of the Medicare payroll tax on unearned income – are nearly \$70 billion greater than in the Senate-passed bill alone.
- The cuts in Medicare are greater than those in the Senate-passed bill alone, leading to an even greater cost-shifting threat to private, employer-sponsored plans.
- Budget gimmicks are used to understate the true cost of coverage provisions of the Senate-passed bill as it is proposed to be amended by the reconciliation bill. These costs for first 10 years (2011 – 2020) are \$1.2 trillion, and costs for the first 10 years of full implementation (2014 – 2023) are \$2.3 trillion.
- Budget gimmicks are also used to hide the true effects of H.R. 3590 as it is proposed to be amended by H.R. 4872 on the federal deficit. In fact, an honest accounting of these bills taken together reveals an increased deficit in the short term and a deficit time bomb thereafter.

*March 19, 2010*  
*Page 2*

- The first and principal reason for health care reform must be to contain costs, the growth of which is unsustainable for individuals, employers and governments. Yet H.R. 3590 and H.R. 4872 taken together will result in higher premiums and national health expenditures.

Finally, a word about procedure:

We believe the American people expect their Representatives in Congress to speak with crystal clarity regarding the votes they cast on legislation of this magnitude. The politically-motivated use of the “deeming” approach in the rule governing consideration of the reconciliation bill to shield Members from voting on the Senate-passed “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act” violates this trust. Members should be required to cast a direct vote either for or against H.R. 3590, a bill that proposes to overhaul fully on-sixth of the world’s largest economy and will if enacted affect every American citizen in profound ways. Rather than using procedural gimmicks to force this legislation upon an unwilling public, the better approach to health care reform is to start over with a truly bipartisan, transparent process aimed at consensus, and get health care reform right.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,



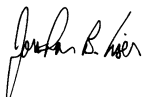
Geoffrey Burr, Vice President-Government Affairs  
Associated Builders and Contractors



Stephen E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer  
Associated General Contractors

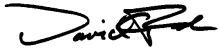


Brian Worth, Vice President for Government & Public Affairs  
Independent Electrical Contractors

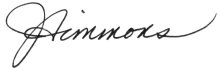


Jon Eisen, Senior Vice President-Government Relations  
International Foodservice Distributors Association

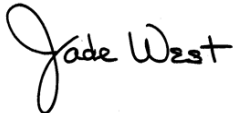
**March 19, 2010**  
**Page 3**



David French, Vice President-Government Relations  
International Franchise Association



Jay Timmons, Executive Vice President  
National Association of Manufacturers



Jade West, Senior Vice President-Government Relations  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



E. Neil Trautwein, Vice President-Employee Benefits Policy Counsel  
National Retail Federation



Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council



R. Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President-Government Affairs  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

**Attachment:**

*StartOver! Membership List*

**cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives**

# STARTOVER!

## *AND GET HEALTH CARE REFORM RIGHT!*

1325 G Street NW #1000, Washington, DC 20005

TEL: 202-872-0885 □ FAX: 202-296-5940

Aeronautical Repair Station Association  
AGC of California, Inc.  
AGC of Colorado  
AGC of East Tennessee  
AGC of Kansas  
AGC of Kentucky  
AGC of Massachusetts  
AGC of Metropolitan Washington, DC  
AGC of Minnesota  
AGC of South Dakota, Building Chapters  
AGC of South Dakota, Inc.  
AGC of St. Louis  
AGC of Tennessee  
AGC of Utah  
AGC of Virginia  
AGC of Washington  
Air Conditioning Contractors of America  
Alaska Chapter of ABC  
Aluminum Extruders Council  
American Apparel & Footwear Association  
American Architectural Manufacturers Association  
American Bakers Association  
American Hardware Manufacturers Association  
American Machine Tool Distributors Association  
American Rental Association  
American Supply Association  
AMT-Association for Manufacturing Technology  
Arizona Chapter Associated General Contractors  
Arizona Independent Electrical Contractors  
Arkansas AGC  
Arkansas Chapter of ABC  
Arkansas Independent Electrical Contractors  
Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce/Associated Industries  
of Arkansas  
Asphalt Pavement Association of Indiana  
Associated Builders & Contractors  
Associated Builders & Contractors of Michigan  
Associated Contractors of New Mexico  
Associated Equipment Distributors  
Associated General Contractors  
Associated General Contractors of Mississippi  
Associated General Contractors of Missouri  
Associated General Contractors of New York State  
Association for Hose & Accessories Distribution (The)  
Association of the Wall & Ceiling Industry  
Association of Washington Business  
Atlanta Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Automotive Aftermarket Association of the Carolinas and Tennessee, Inc.  
Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast  
Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association  
Automotive Parts & Services Association  
Automotive Parts Remanufacturers Association  
Baltimore Metro Chapter of ABC  
Brick Industry Association  
Builders Association of Illinois  
Building Industry Association of Washington  
Carolinas AGC  
Carolinas Chapter of ABC  
CenTex Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Central Alabama Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Central California Chapter of ABC  
Central Florida Chapter of ABC  
Central Illinois Builders of AGC  
Central Indiana Chapter Independent Electrical Contractors  
Central Michigan Chapter of ABC  
Central Missouri Independent Electrical Contractors  
Central Ohio AEC/IEC  
Central Ohio Chapter of ABC  
Central Pennsylvania Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Central Texas Chapter of ABC  
Central Washington Independent Electrical Contractors  
Centre County Independent Electrical Contractors  
Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.  
Chesapeake Chapter of ABC  
Chesapeake Independent Electrical Contractors  
Cleaning Equipment Trade Association  
Construction Industry Round Table  
Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania  
Cumberland Valley Chapter of ABC  
Dakotas Independent Electrical Contractors  
Dallas Independent Electrical Contractors  
Delaware Chapter of ABC  
Delmarva Chapter Land Improvement Contractors of America  
Door & Hardware Institute  
East Tennessee Independent Electrical Contractors  
East Texas Independent Electrical Contractors  
Eastern Washington Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
El Paso Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Electronic Security Association  
Empire State Chapter of ABC  
Employers for Quality Health Care

Envelope Manufacturers Association  
Equipment Distribution & Marketing Association  
Florida East Coast Chapter of ABC  
Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of ABC  
Florida West Coast Independent Electrical Contractors  
Fort Worth/Tarrant County Independent Electrical Contractors  
Futures Industry Association  
Gases and Welding Distributor Association  
Georgia Branch AGC  
Georgia Chapter of ABC  
Georgia Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Global Market Development Center  
Golden Gate Chapter of ABC  
Greater Cincinnati Independent Electrical Contractors  
Greater Montana Independent Electrical Contractors  
Greater St. Louis Independent Electrical Contractors  
Hampton Roads Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Hawaii Chapter of ABC  
Heating, Airconditioning & Refrigeration Distributors International  
Heavy Constructors Association of Greater Kansas City Area  
Idaho AGC  
Idaho Independent Electrical Contractors  
Illinois Chapter of ABC  
Independent Bakers Association  
Independent Electrical Contractors Inc.  
Independent Electrical Contractors of Illinois  
Independent Electrical Contractors of the Bluegrass  
Indiana Chapter of ABC  
Industrial Supply Association  
Inland Pacific Chapter of ABC  
International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association  
International Foodservice Distributors Association  
International Franchise Association  
International Housewares Association  
International Sanitary Supply Association  
International Sign Association  
Iowa Chapter of ABC  
Kansas City Independent Electrical Contractors  
Kentuckiana Chapter of ABC  
Kentucky & Southern Indiana Independent Electrical Contractors  
Keystone Chapter of ABC  
Louisiana Association of Business and Industry  
Lubbock Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Lumber Association of California & Nevada  
Maine Chapter of ABC  
Marine Retailers Association of America  
Master Builders of Iowa  
Master Electrical Contractors of Dayton  
Material Handling Equipment Distributors Association  
Metals Service Center Institute  
Metro Washington Chapter of ABC  
Mid-Oregon Independent Electrical Contractors  
Mid-South Independent Electrical Contractors  
Midwest Independent Electrical Contractors  
Mississippi Chapter of ABC  
Montana Independent Electrical Contractors  
Nashville Independent Electrical Contractors  
National Association of Chemical Distributors  
National Association of Electrical Distributors  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
National Association of Manufacturers  
National Association of Sign Supply Distributors  
National Association of Sporting Goods Wholesalers  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors  
National Club Association  
National Electrical Manufacturers Representatives Association  
National Lumber and Building Material Dealers Association  
National Marine Distributors Association, Inc.  
National Newspaper Association  
National Poultry & Food Distributors Association  
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association  
National Retail Federation  
National Roofing Contractors Association  
National RV Dealers Association  
National School Supply & Equipment Association  
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association  
National Utility Contractors Association  
Nebraska Chapter of ABC  
Nevada Manufacturers Association  
New England Independent Electrical Contractors  
New Jersey Chapter of ABC  
New Jersey Independent Electrical Contractors  
Non-Ferrous Founders' Society  
North Alabama Chapter of ABC  
North American Association of Utility Distributors  
North American Equipment Dealers Association  
North American Horticultural Supply Association  
North Carolina Association of Electrical Contractors  
North-American Association of Uniform Manufacturers & Distributors  
Northern New Mexico Independent Electrical Contractors  
Northern Ohio Chapter of ABC  
Northern Ohio Electrical Contractors Association  
Northwest Pennsylvania Independent Electrical Contractors  
Northwest Washington Independent Electrical Contractors  
NPES-The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing & Converting Technologies  
Ohio Council of Retail Merchants  
Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association  
Ohio Valley Chapter of ABC  
OKC-IEC  
Oklahoma Chapter of ABC  
Oklahoma State Chamber  
Oregon Independent Electrical Contractors  
Outdoor Power Equipment and Engine Service Association  
Pacific Coast Chapter of ABC  
Pet Industry Distributors Association  
Petroleum Equipment Institute  
Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors National Association  
Power Transmission Distributors Association  
Precision Machined Products Association  
Printing Industries of America  
Puget Sound Independent Electrical Contractors  
Rhode Island Chapter of ABC  
Rio Grande Valley Independent Electrical Contractors, Inc.  
Rocky Mountain Chapter of ABC  
Rocky Mountain Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
San Antonio Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors

San Diego Chapter of ABC  
Selected Independent Funeral Homes  
Sierra Nevada Chapter of ABC  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council  
Society of American Florists  
South Florida Independent Electrical Contractors  
South Texas Chapter of ABC  
Southeast Missouri Independent Electrical Contractors  
Southeast Pennsylvania Chapter of ABC  
Southeast Texas Chapter of ABC  
Southern Arizona Independent Electrical Contractors  
Southern California Chapter of ABC  
Southern California Independent Electrical Contractors  
Southern Colorado Chapter of the Independent Electrical  
Contractors  
Southern Indiana-Evansville Independent Electrical  
Contractors  
Southern New Mexico Independent Electrical Contractors  
Southwestern Association of Equipment Dealers  
SPI: The Plastics Industry Trade Association  
Texas Association of Business  
Texas Gulf Coast Independent Electrical Contractors  
Texas Panhandle Independent Electrical Contractors  
Texas State Independent Electrical Contractors  
TEXO Chapter of ABC  
TEXO Chapter of AGC  
Texoma Independent Electrical Contractors  
Tri State Independent Electrical Contractors  
United States Cutting Tool Institute  
Utah Chapter of ABC  
Utah Independent Electrical Contractors  
Virginia Chapter of ABC  
WECA IEC  
West Texas Independent Electrical Contractors  
Western Colorado Chapter of ABC  
Western Colorado Independent Electrical Contractors  
Western Pennsylvania Chapter of ABC  
Western Reserve Independent Electrical Contractors  
Western Washington Chapter of ABC  
Wichita Chapter of the Independent Electrical Contractors  
Wisconsin Manufacturers and Commerce  
Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America  
Woodworking Machinery Industry Association  
Wyoming Chapter of ABC