



**INTERNATIONAL
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November 7, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairwoman
U.S. House Committee on Ways
and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Ways
and Means
1102 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Brady and Ranking Member Neal:

On behalf of the approximately 750,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood Electrical Workers (IBEW), I am writing to urge you to support Congresswoman Suzan DelBene’s proposed amendment to H.R. 1, “Tax Cuts and Jobs Act” which will eliminate the forty percent (40%) health benefits tax. As you know, this legislation is important to the labor movement and employers alike. The IBEW appreciates your support.

For our members and roughly half of large U.S. employers, it is critical that this amendment be adopted. As multi-year contracts expire, employers are cutting benefits and restructuring delivery of benefits in order to avoid the tax as long as possible. Although the tax has been postponed, employees are already seeing increases in self-pay premiums, deductibles, and co-pays. In all cases, it is American families that are hurt by the tax on benefits. It is no secret that those who are uninsured, underinsured, or lack resources often go without screenings, preventive care, or even worse delay needed medical care. As a direct result, the overall cost of healthcare goes up.

The excise tax is placing the health benefits of millions of Americans at risk now. Repeal of the tax needs to be addressed as an urgent matter. I ask that you help American families by supporting this amendment and urging your fellow members to join you.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:mlm
Copy to All Members of the U.S. House Committee on Ways and Means

