



**INTERNATIONAL
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July 15, 2019

VIA EMAIL

To: All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives

Re: The Middle-Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of the approximately 775,000 active members and retirees of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), I urge all members of the U.S. House of Representatives to vote in support of H.R. 748, the Middle-Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act, which is expected to be considered by the full House of Representatives this week. This bipartisan legislation would permanently repeal the 40 percent excise tax on employer-sponsored health insurance plans, commonly known as the “Cadillac Tax.”

The original intent of the 40 percent excise tax was to contain the cost of employer-sponsored health plans. By taxing health benefits perceived to be generous, employers and employees would make decisions regarding coverage and utilization of coverage that would drive down health care costs. In practice, however, this is not the case. The excise tax is already causing an adverse effect on the affordability and quality of health coverage available to hardworking IBEW members and other workers around the country. In fact, IBEW members are already being forced to make concessions at the bargaining table in anticipation of the 40 percent excise tax, leaving less money to pay for everyday needs and support their local communities.

The Middle-Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act has over 355 cosponsors and is widely supported by organized labor, business groups and consumer advocates. The IBEW urges every member of Congress to support the permanent repealed the excise tax before it goes into full effect in 2022 and further harms working American families.

Sincerely yours,

Lonnie R. Stephenson
International President

LRS:lgd

