



July 15, 2015

The Honorable Charles Grassley  
United States Senate  
135 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp  
United States Senate  
502 Hart Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Boustany, M.D.  
United States House of Representatives  
1431 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Thompson  
United States House of Representatives  
231 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators Grassley and Heitkamp and Representatives Boustany and Thompson,

On behalf of America's 23 million self-employed and micro-business owners, the National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE) is pleased to provide enthusiastic support for Small Business Healthcare Relief Act (S. 1697/H.R. 2911), which allows for small businesses, 49 or less employees, to offer Health Reimbursement Arrangements (HRAs) to their employees. These HRAs will permit businesses to offer pre-tax dollars to insured employees to help pay premiums and/or other out-of-pocket costs associated with medical care and services.

For over a decade, HRAs have been a key tool for small employers to provide their employees with minimal financial assistance for qualified health care expenses. With the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and the 2013 decision by the Departments of Treasury, Health and Human Services, and Labor to tie key lifetime or annual limits and coverage of preventive health services to small employers offering an HRA was a gross infringement on the small business community. The change resulted in a particularly negative impact on small employers with 49 or less employees that are under no legal obligation to provide a qualified healthcare plan for their employees under the employer mandate of the ACA.

We applaud your leadership on this incredibly important legislation and we look forward to working with you on this in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Vlietstra". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Vlietstra  
Vice President of Government Relations & Public Affairs  
National Association for the Self-Employed