



March 24, 2010

The Honorable Mark Steven Kirk
U.S. House of Representatives
1030 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Kirk:

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's largest small business advocacy organization, I want to thank you for introducing The Small Business Bill of Rights. Now more than ever, small business needs Washington to stand up for them and make sure that they will be able to again lead our country's economic revival.

Small business generates half of our nation's GDP and employs 60 percent or more of the nation's workforce, yet Congress keeps advocating for policies that will drive up the cost of doing business and make it much more difficult for owners to start hiring. NFIB's monthly Small Business Optimism Index continues to show unprecedented levels of concern from small business owners, and one of the main reasons for their concern continues to be the legislative agenda in Washington.

We appreciate that your Small Business Bill of Rights recognizes the importance of allowing secret ballots in union elections, and of protecting the rights of workers and employers. This is a basic right that would be obliterated by passage of the so-called Employee Free Choice Act, and Congress needs to ensure that employers retain the right to ask for secret ballot elections during a union organizing campaign.

Health care costs have long been the number one concern of our members, and they adamantly opposed the health care reform legislation just signed in to law. Your bill recognizes the importance of competition in the health care marketplace, as well the need for equal tax treatment for the self-employed and meaningful medical liability reforms. These are all issues that should have been addressed by Congress during the health care reform debate.

Our members agree completely that the Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) should be eliminated and the money returned to pay down our massive national debt. Small business owners are very concerned with out-of-control Washington spending, and want to see Congress exercise the same fiscal discipline as small business owners.

The Small Business Bill of Rights also protects small business owners from the Alternative Minimum Tax, increases the start-up deduction to \$20,000, and limits the amount of government-generated paperwork that owners have to complete each year.

Thank you for your efforts to help focus Congress on important issues facing small business, and for introducing the Small Business Bill of Rights. We look forward to working with you on this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susan Eckerly". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

Susan Eckerly
Senior Vice President
Public Policy and Political

National Federation of Independent Business

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