



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

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WILLIAM J. JOHNSON

Executive Director

October 14, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid

Majority Leader

United States Senate

522 Hart Senate Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid:

The National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO) represents 241,000 rank-and-file law enforcement officers and over 1,000 police unions and associations from across the United States. I am writing to advise you of our deep concerns regarding the provision in the "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009" that would impose an excise tax on health insurance companies, administrators, and self-insured employers that offer and administer high-cost health plans.

The health care plans of state and local public safety officers are not extravagant "Cadillac" plans that are filled with superfluous medical benefits. They are the good, comprehensive health benefit plans that you, members of Congress and the Administration are working to make accessible to all Americans. Despite the recognition in the legislation that the health care plans of public safety and other high risk professions are more costly than the average health care plan, NAPO believes that this tax would threaten the stability and security of these plans. The congressional Joint Committee on Taxation estimates that the excise tax proposed by the "America's Healthy Future Act of 2009" would hit approximately 40 percent of all plans – individual and family plans - in ten years.

As the tax is based on the cost of health care plans regardless of what it covers or why it costs so much, it will not only hit luxury health care plans, but also comprehensive plans and plans that cover predominantly public safety officers, older workers and women. NAPO is concerned that public safety employees will be forced to pay the excise tax in the form of wage cuts, higher premiums, increased out-of-pocket costs, and lower benefits, all of which go against the purpose of health care reform: making good health care more accessible and affordable to the American people.

Therefore, as you work to finalize the health care reform legislation in the Senate, NAPO urges you to look at the adverse consequences the excise tax would have on the health care plans of a significant number of American workers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Government Affairs Director, Andrea Mournighan, at (703) 549-0775.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson

Executive Director