



AMERICANS for TAX REFORM

Grover G. Norquist
President

February 24, 2008

The Honorable John Shadegg
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Shadegg:

It's exciting to work with you to build up co-sponsorship of H.R. 4460, the "Health Care Choice Act." This is one of the most important health care reform measures to be introduced this Congress, and **I would encourage all Members of Congress to co-sponsor it.**

The cost of health care is one of the most important sources of growth in government spending, and thereby burdens on taxpayers. State governments are one of the main contributors to this growth. Over the years, they have enacted nearly 2000 "benefit mandates"—requirements that health insurance sold in their state cover certain, often politically-driven, benefits.

These benefits are sometimes well-intentioned and sometimes absurd (e.g., wig treatment). All of them drive up the cost of care. Some states have been greater culprits than others. According to eHealthInsurance.com, a single 25-year old male in Kentucky would pay \$960 per year for basic coverage. That same young man would pay \$5880 if he lived in New Jersey.

The "Health Care Choice Act" would create real interstate commerce in health insurance. **Any insurance policy approved in any state could be purchased by any resident of any state.** Our young man cited above could buy the Kentucky health care plan, even if he lives in New Jersey.

Over time, states with expensive health insurance benefit mandates would lose market share. **Market competition will force down the price of care and reduce the number of uninsured.** It's a central ingredient in the conservative prescription for America's health care woes.

Sincerely,

Grover G. Norquist
President

GGN: rle

1920 L Street NW

Suite 200

Washington, DC

20036

T: (202) 785-0266

F: (202) 785-0261

www.atr.org