



July 25, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

I write to share the strong support of the National Retail Federation (NRF) for the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1628, the American Health Care Act. **Please note that NRF may consider votes on H.R. 1628, substitute or other amendments, and related procedural motions as Opportunity Index Votes for our annual voting scorecard.**

Retailers are impatient for relief from the Affordable Care Act (ACA). The ACA continues to adversely influence staffing patterns, discourage full-time employment and add to the cost of goods in retail stores. NRF opposed enactment of the ACA, but has also worked steadfastly to change the law since its enactment. We have supported reasonable bipartisan efforts to reduce the ACA's cost burdens and ease compliance concerns. The ACA remains a heavy burden for the greater retail community despite all of our efforts to fix and adjust to the law. Budget reconciliation legislation promises to effectively repeal the employer mandate and repeal many of the ACA taxes that pass down directly to employers and employees alike. We support partial repeal of the ACA through budget reconciliation.

NRF recognizes that there are myriad and contrasting concerns involved with addressing the ACA. The first step toward resolving those concerns and moving forward with an improved ACA or successor legislation begins with opening debate and moving to amendments. We will also support the necessary bipartisan work to follow. Consensus reform will build on the employment based system, which covers 178 million Americans, but not threaten this coverage in the effort to help others.

For all of these reasons, NRF supports the motion to proceed to H.R. 1628 and asks for your vote in support.

Sincerely,

David French
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

cc: Members, United States Senate