



March 20, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representative  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Democratic Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

I write to share the strong support of the National Retail Federation (NRF) for the American Health Care Act. **Please note that NRF may consider votes on the American Health Care Act and related procedural motions as Opportunity Index Votes for our annual voting scorecard.**

It is time now to finally close the book on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and start a new chapter in health care with the new AHCA. Retailers strongly support repealing the ACA's employer mandate and rolling back many of the taxes that fund the law, including the so-called Cadillac Tax on expensive health plans (but also increasingly on mainstream plans, too). The added flexibility for Health Savings Accounts and Flexible Spending Arrangements is also welcome. We commend the sponsors for tackling Medicaid, too. Far too much of the federal budget is on automatic pilot through entitlement spending. This first step, though politically challenging, is welcome and important.

We have little patience for those who criticize this legislation for not going further to repeal the ACA. The budget reconciliation process offers a pathway through the Senate, past an inevitable filibuster. The AHCA is reasonable legislation that will be signed into law. Not only can lawmakers not turn back the clock to the market that existed before the ACA was enacted, but they also cannot demonstrate majority support for non-reconciliation proposals, much less 60 votes to defeat a filibuster. This is the real repeal vote and we strongly urge you to join us in supporting the AHCA.

We continue to believe the best course of action is to repeal the ACA and begin a truly bipartisan discussion and debate on the future of our health care system. That is why we support the American Health Care Act and urge your support as well.

Sincerely,

David French  
Senior Vice President  
Government Relations

cc: Members, U.S. House of Representatives