



AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION®

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February 1, 2017

The Honorable
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep.: (FULL HOUSE)

Farm Bureau supports H.R. 246, introduced by Reps. Kristi Noem (R-S.D.) and Krysten Sinema (D-Ariz.), to repeal the annual fee on health insurance providers enacted as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

The bill addresses one of the major concerns that farmers and ranchers have related to health insurance – cost. The health insurance tax (HIT) has increased health insurance costs for farmers, ranchers and other small businesses by imposing a levy on the net premiums of health insurance companies, which is passed on to consumers. During 2014, \$8 billion of excise taxes were levied, and \$11 billion was collected in 2015 and 2016 each.

The consolidated appropriations bill that passed Congress in December 2015 imposed a one-year moratorium, for 2017, on the HIT Tax. But since the cost of the HIT increases year-over-year, Americans will face an even higher HIT impact on premiums in 2018. Providing one year of relief from the HIT was a welcome and critical first step, but Americans need the certainty of a full repeal.

Farm Bureau urges you to support and cosponsor H.R. 246 as a way to lower insurance costs for farmers, ranchers and other small business owners.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zippy Duvall".

Sincerely,
Zippy Duvall
President