



The Voice of Small Business®

ALASKA

February 28, 2011

The Honorable Carl Gatto
Alaska State Representative
State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

RE: House Bill 1

Dear Representative Gatto,

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to express our support for House Bill 1. The National Federation of Independent Business is the largest small-business advocacy group in the Alaska.

House Bill 1 establishes a state policy that an individual cannot be coerced to purchase a health insurance policy. This legislation at the state level will help block a government requirement to purchase health insurance. If enacted in Alaska, the legislation will block an individual mandate. NFIB believes that the government does not have constitutional authority to mandate an individual purchase health insurance.

As you may be aware, NFIB is the only trade association that is a party to the lawsuit filed in federal court in Florida. The district court found in favor of our suit. We expect the government will appeal the ruling. In the interim, we believe it is important that Alaska, that is also a party to the suit, set a state policy consistent with the position advocated in the lawsuit.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dennis L. DeWitt", is written over a horizontal line.

Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

cc: House Health Education & Social Services Committee