

HJR

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NFIB

The Voice of Small Business®

ALASKA

March 2, 2011

The Honorable Wes Keller
Room 432
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Representative Keller,

RE: HJR 5

On behalf of the National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska, I wish to express our support for House Joint Resolution 5. The National Federation of Independent Business/Alaska is the largest small-business advocacy group in our state.

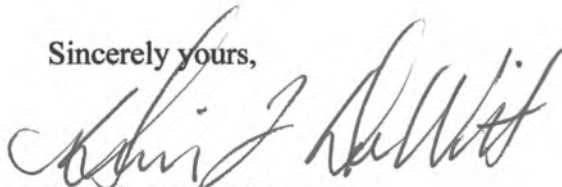
HJR 5 provides for placing an amendment to Alaska's Constitution before voters during the next general election making explicit the individual right to health care free choice. The constitutional amendment would prohibit passage of laws that compel any person or employer to participate in a particular health care system. The proposed constitutional change will also permit the purchase of private insurance and allow Alaskans to pay their own health care provider directly.

NFIB/AK is critically concerned about the cost and access to health care for Alaskans. The federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 11-148) does not address those issues. The mandates it includes clearly impose unreasonable burdens on Alaskans and Alaskan businesses. These mandates do not address the needs of Alaskans.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses, the State of Alaska, and 25 other states have filed suit against the unconstitutional individual mandate found in P.L. 11-148. We have been successful in the federal district court and intend to win at the U.S. Supreme Court.

This proposal will protect Alaskans from the unconstitutional federal mandates to purchase health insurance that may not meet their needs. It will protect small businesses from being taxed for not providing health insurance designed by the federal government that may not meet the needs of their employees.

Sincerely yours,



Dennis L. DeWitt
Alaska State Director

Cc: NFIB/AK Leadership Council