



CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
**JIMMY PATRONIS**  
STATE OF FLORIDA

October 23, 2017

The Honorable Gus M. Bilirakis  
2112 Rayburn HOB  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis:

I am writing to urge your support in delaying the implementation of the detrimental Health Insurance Tax.

As Florida's Chief Financial Officer, it is my responsibility to safeguard the fiscal health of Florida's families, and to sound the alarm on burdensome, unnecessary, and costly laws that will negatively impact Florida's bottom line. Therefore, I must make clear that the implementation of the Health Insurance Tax will hurt not only Florida's families, but small businesses and the State Treasury alike.

Congress has delayed the 2017 HIT implementation, lowering policyholders' premiums by three percent, and saving the health care system an estimated \$13.9 billion. However, a delay is but a temporary reprieve. Without immediate Congressional action, the tax will go into effect January 1, 2018, with a \$22 billion first-year fiscal impact. With a 10-year projected impact of \$267 billion, Florida simply cannot afford inaction. Florida alone faces a \$1.7 billion overall increase in 2018 health care premiums. Florida's state workforce covered by the state-sponsored health plan can expect a \$188 annual increase for individual coverage, and families can expect to pay an additional \$518 in 2018.

Some have stated this tax will lower the cost of insurance. They are wrong. The Health Insurance Tax will raise the cost of health insurance in Florida. Addressing this economically irresponsible tax will help drive down the cost of health insurance for Florida's hard-working families.

I stand ready to join you in driving public conversation on this pressing issue. Your support is essential to effectively delaying the implementation of this ill-designed tax, and in securing its full repeal. Florida families cannot afford to bear the burden of this tax, and they demand nothing less than your full attention on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Patronis".

Jimmy Patronis  
Chief Financial Officer  
State of Florida

c: Florida Congressional Delegation