



January 31, 2011

The Honorable Orrin C. Hatch
United States Senate
104 Senate Hart Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

I write to lend the support of the National Retail Federation (NRF) to legislation you have introduced: S. 20, the American Job Protection Act and S. 19, the "American Liberty Restoration Act." We strongly support your bills and urge that they be promptly adopted.

NRF has myriad concerns with and objections to the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA). This sweeping new law missed the opportunity to make serious progress in reducing the cost of medical care and coverage and instead imposed job-killing mandates on employers and individuals. It also significantly undercut existing account-based health care options that today encourage cost-conscious behavior by consumers.

Your legislation appropriately would repeal both the employer and individual mandates. Eliminating the employer mandate would greatly aid the greater retail community, which is heavily dependent on labor. One of every five jobs in the American economy is in retail, which would be jeopardized by the mandate effective in 2014. The employer mandate is already deterring job growth today at the expense of tomorrow's economy. In addition, we cannot support the individual mandate in PPACA given the lack of immediate and long-term progress in reducing the cost of medical care and coverage.

NRF commends you for introducing this legislation. We look forward to supporting your efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mallory A. Duncan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mallory Duncan
Senior Vice President, General Counsel

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