

(91)

Withdrawn
44

AMENDMENT NO. _____

Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide a sense of the Senate regarding the deductibility of health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—108th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. CON. RES.

Referred to the Committee on _____
and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. DURBIN

Viz:

1 At the end of title III, insert the following:

2 SEC. ____ SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DE-
3 DUCTIBILITY OF HEALTH INSURANCE COSTS
4 OF SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.

5 (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

6 (1) under current law, self-employed individuals
7 do not enjoy parity with corporate competitors with
8 respect to the deductibility of health insurance costs;

9 (2) self-employed individuals can deduct only 60
10 percent of their health insurance costs;

1 (3) statutory increases in the deductible amount
2 of health insurance costs will rise slowly to only 70
3 percent by 2002;

4 (4) not until 2003 will self-employed individuals
5 enjoy equitable treatment with corporate competitors
6 with respect to the deductibility of health insurance
7 costs;

8 (5) the limited deductibility available to self-em-
9 ployed individuals greatly reduces the affordability of
10 health insurance coverage;

11 (6) the disadvantages faced by self-employed in-
12 dividuals are exacerbated by the fact that self-em-
13 ployed individuals generally pay higher premium
14 rates for health insurance because they do not have
15 access to group health insurance plans;

16 (7) these disadvantages are reflected in the
17 higher rate of uninsureds among self-employed indi-
18 viduals which stands at 29.6 percent compared with
19 17.4 percent for all other wage and salaried workers;
20 of self-employed individuals with earnings of less
21 than \$10,000, 29.6 percent are uninsured, of self-
22 employed individuals with earning of \$10,000 or
23 more and less than \$20,000, 34.2 percent are unin-
24 sured, and of self-employed individuals with earnings
25 of \$20,000 or more, 30.9 percent are uninsured;

1 (8) for some self-employed individuals, such as
2 farmers who face significant occupational hazards,
3 this lack of health insurance affordability has even
4 greater ramifications; and

5 (9) the lack of full deductibility is adversely af-
6 fecting the growing number of women who own
7 small businesses.

8 (b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the
9 Senate that Congress should enact legislation to provide
10 parity between self-employed individuals and corporations
11 with respect to the tax treatment of health insurance
12 costs.