



# LIUNA!

TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN  
*General President*

June 12, 2009

ARMAND E. SABITONI  
*General Secretary-Treasurer*

The Honorable Max Baucus  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

*Vice Presidents:*

Dear Chairman Baucus,

VERE O. HAYNES

I want to commend you and the other members of the Senate Finance Committee for the diligent effort you have put forth to the task of reforming our nation's health care system.

MIKE QUEVEDO, JR.

TERRENCE M. HEALY

However, I must express the strong opposition of the 500,000 proud members of the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA) to any proposal to tax them on their health benefits coverage or on their employers' contributions to their health plans.

RAYMOND M. POCINO

JOSEPH S. MANCINELLI

ROCCO DAVIS

*Special Assistant to the  
General President*

LIUNA has been supportive of national health care reform largely because our workers have been paying their own way and carrying an unfair share of the responsibility for others. For too long we have seen our costs rise because we pay for the uncompensated care of the uninsured because too many employers provide little or no health care benefits.

VINCENT R. MASINO

DENNIS L. MARTIRE

MANO FREY

ROBERT E. RICHARDSON

The promise of health care reform as articulated by President Obama is "we fix what's broken and build on what works." He reiterated that promise on June 11 in Green Bay, Wisconsin saying, "If you like your health care plan, you will be able to keep your health care plan."

JOSE A. MORENO

RALPH E. COLE

JOHN F. PENN

JOHN F. HEGARTY

We have looked forward to keeping what we have, as promised, and unburdening our plans and their participants of unfair costs. The inclusion of a tax on employer contributions or health coverage in any legislation would seriously undermine support for health care reform in our community.

MICHAEL S. BEARSE

*General Counsel*

The experience of the last campaign is instructive. Senator McCain's "health care reform" plan, including its repeal of the tax exclusion and substitution of a tax credit saw our members rally to support President Obama and the promise of real reform and change.

As I talk to workers around the country, LIUNA members and non-members, I hear their outrage at the prospect of being penalized for having health care coverage that protects them and their families. I cannot recall any other issue in recent times that has so engaged and enraged workers.

HEADQUARTERS:  
905 16th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C.  
20006-1765  
202-737-8320  
Fax: 202-737-2754  
www.liuna.org

*Feel the Power*



The Honorable Max Baucus  
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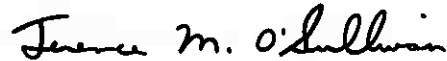
It has come up unsolicited in every forum and group of workers I have appeared before.

LIUNA will be forced to vigorously oppose any healthcare reform package which taxes our employer provided healthcare benefits and we will work against the efforts of those promoting it. Because the hardworking men and women of union, through their collectively bargained agreements, defer their take home pay to help pay for their healthcare benefits, any plan that taxes these benefits is dead on arrival for us.

Once again I commend your efforts to find a solution to this national crisis. I am hopeful that with your help, Congress can pass a national healthcare reform bill which does not subject workers to taxation on their premiums or benefits.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

  
TERENCE M. O'SULLIVAN  
General President

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cc: Senate Majority Leader Reid

Senate Majority Whip Dick Durbin

All Democratic U.S. Senators