



# UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

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September 25, 2009

Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senate  
173 Russell Senate Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(via fax: (202) 224-0238)

Dear Senator Murray,

United Fishermen of Alaska represents 37 Alaska commercial fishing associations whose members include small fishing family businesses throughout the U.S. Many UFA member groups have been following Health Care legislation with great interest and feel that there are several points in common to the commercial fishing industry. The UFA Executive Committee, based on our longtime understanding that access to health care and to health insurance is a significant problem to commercial fishing businesses, feels the timing in the current process makes it important that you are aware of the fishing industry's concerns on several key items.

We support an exemption for businesses with 50 or fewer employees, and for businesses with seasonal hiring, from new health care requirements. We are informed that the Baucus version of the legislation pending in the Senate contains the 50-employee exemption; and that an amendment offered by Senator Hagan in committee addresses concerns of small businesses that hire seasonal employees (which we request be clarified to up to 120 consecutive days). We are encouraged by these developments, and we ask that you actively support these sorts of measures wherever the opportunity presents itself in the legislative process. We add that the exemption should apply, regardless of whether employees' incomes are reported by 1099 or W-2.

We have the following, additional requests:

- Protect existing medical plans and coverage from provisions that would be detrimental to them.
- Support the formation of health care cooperatives, as freely determined by groups or individuals or organizations.
- Support a national exchange, as one option that would be offered without adversely affecting existing plans and coverage and the formation of health care cooperatives. We would like open competition for all individuals and groups to freely purchase & compare health care coverage's no matter what region of the country we reside in.

This should not serve as a complete list of industry concerns or a complete United Fishermen of Alaska position on the health care, only those points for which we have heard no opposition in our ongoing discussions.

We appreciate your consideration of these points on behalf of fishing families.

Sincerely,



Joe Childers  
President



Mark Vinsel  
Executive Director

CC:

Honorable Lisa Murkowski, United States Senate  
Honorable Mark Begich, United States Senate  
Honorable Don Young, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Ron Wyden, United States Senate  
Honorable Jeff Merkley, United States Senate  
Honorable Earl Blumenauer, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Peter DeFazio, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Kurt Schrader, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Greg Walden, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable David Wu, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Maria Cantwell, United States Senate  
Honorable Jim McDermott, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Norm Dicks, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Doc Hastings, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Brian Baird, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Jay Inslee, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Dave Reichert, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Adam Smith, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Dianne Feinstein, United States Senate  
Honorable Barbara Boxer, United States Senate  
Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Max Baucus, United States Senate  
Honorable John Kerry, United States Senate  
Honorable Paul Kirk, United States Senate  
Honorable Barney Frank, U.S. House of Representatives  
Honorable Olympia Snowe, United States Senate  
Honorable Sean Parnell, Governor, State of Alaska  
Angela San Filippo, Massachusetts Fishing Partnership  
Jimmie Ruhle, Commercial Fishermen of America  
Pietro Parravano, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations  
John Williams, Southern Shrimp Alliance