

STARTOVER!

1325 G STREET N.W., SUITE 1000, WASHINGTON, DC 20005
TEL: 202-872-0885 FAX: 202-296-5940

October 24, 2011

The Honorable John Thune
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lindsay Graham
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

The undersigned write on behalf of Start Over!, a coalition of more than 250 trade associations representing employers of all sizes across the entire span of the U.S. economy, to reiterate our support for S. 720, *Repeal the CLASS Entitlement Act*, legislation to repeal the Community Living Assistance Service and Supports (CLASS) Act enacted as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PL 111-148), and to urge its enactment during this session of the 112th Congress.

In our letter to you of April 12, 2011, we stated, “As well intentioned as the CLASS Act is, it is irrationally designed as an insurance program and a budgetary ‘train wreck’ waiting to happen ... The federal taxpayer bailout of this supposedly *self*-sustaining program seems more than merely predictable but rather a virtual certainty.” Now more than five months later, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has confirmed the validity of our concerns regarding the sustainability of the CLASS program with the cancellation of its effort to implement CLASS. In taking this action, Secretary Sebelius has informed the Congress, “Despite our best analytical efforts, I do not see a viable path forward for CLASS implementation at this time.”

In light of long-held and widely-shared concerns regarding CLASS and the decision of HHS to suspend CLASS implementation, we urge the Senate to act expeditiously on your legislation to repeal the CLASS Act.

Sincerely,

THE STARTOVER COALITION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:

(see next page)

October 24, 2011

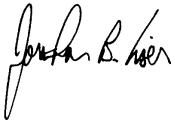
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Geoffrey Burr, Vice President-Government Affairs, Associated Builders and Contractors



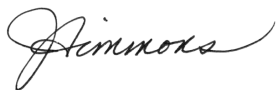
Stephen E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer, Associated General Contractors



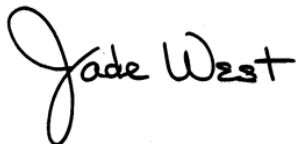
Jon Eisen, Senior Vice President-Government Relations, International Foodservice Distributors Association



Stephen J. Caldeira, President & Chief Executive Officer, International Franchise Association



Jay Timmons, President, National Association of Manufacturers



Jade West, Senior Vice President-Government Relations, National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



Dan Danner, President & CEO, National Federation of Independent Business

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David French". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "D".

David French, Senior Vice President-Government Relations, National Retail Federation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Kerrigan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO, Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Bruce Josten". The signature is written in a cursive style.

R. Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President-Government Affairs, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

cc: All Members of the United States Senate