

Congressman Jim Costa, 20th Congressional District  
1314 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Healthcare Legislation – OPPOSE**

Dear Congressmen Costa,

I strongly urge you to oppose the federal healthcare bill when it comes before you for a vote. This legislation will harm local businesses in California's San Joaquin Valley and will not provide the type of reform that our healthcare system truly needs.

The Greater Bakersfield Chamber of Commerce and many local business owners support reforming the health system, specifically efforts to control costs while improving quality, tort reform, and incentivizing coverage through tax credits to individuals and employers.

However, the legislation currently being debated fails a simple litmus test – first do no harm. This proposal will not improve the current situation and in fact, it will largely make it worse.

Income tax increases to pay for subsidies, excise taxes on health plans, and employer mandates will do more than devastate the private insurance industry - they could bankrupt our already struggling economy.

I understand that you could be asked to vote on a piece of legislation by this weekend and I strongly urge you to oppose that bill.

Sincerely,