

Dear Friend:

Thank you for contacting me regarding the need for more affordable health insurance coverage. It is an honor to serve you as Majority Leader of the United States Senate and a privilege to respond to your concerns.

America's small business owners are the engine of economic growth in America. They employ more than half of our nation's workforce and create a large majority of our new jobs. Skyrocketing health costs are a major obstacle for small businesses attempting to provide health coverage for their employees.

As a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee, I am proud to report that the HELP Committee recently passed the bipartisan "Health Insurance Marketplace Modernization and Affordability Act of 2005" (S. 1995). This legislation creates greater choice and competition in the health insurance marketplace, while allowing businesses and entrepreneurs to band together and use their combined purchasing power to negotiate more affordable options.

As Majority Leader, I am committed to bringing this legislation to the Senate floor and am working with my colleagues to provide real relief from rising health care costs. I appreciate hearing your thoughts on this important issue and I hope you will continue to share your thoughts and concerns with me throughout my tenure in the United States Senate.

Sincerely,

William H. Frist, M.D.  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate