



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Healthcare

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January 8, 2015

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.6 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I urge you to oppose H.R. 30, a bill to repeal the 30-hour-per-week threshold for classification as a full-time employee for purposes of the employer mandate in Affordable Care Act and replace it with 40 hours.

The AFT is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for students, their families and our communities. Locally negotiated health insurance programs cover a substantial majority of our members, and for this reason, among others described below, our members have a vital interest in maintaining the 30-hour rule.

Our union supports the ACA's expansion of health insurance as well as the act's consumer protections and emphasis on preventive care. The AFT believes that every person should have high-quality, affordable healthcare that does not consume so much of his or her paycheck that he or she cannot meet family financial obligations or save for the future. We know firsthand that having affordable health insurance is a key component to upward mobility and middle-class status. Because of the important protections afforded by good health insurance, many of our members have sacrificed earned wage increases in collective bargaining in order to maintain their health plans.

Under current law, the level of uninsured individuals is lower than ever before. These figures include the many contingent workers (college and university adjunct faculty) we represent and who also make up an increasing share of the workforce.

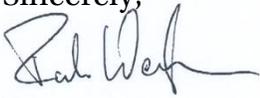
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If the threshold for coverage is raised from 30 to 40 hours per week, fewer contingent workers will be covered, making their lives and wages more insecure. This is wrong and unfair. Rather than embracing the spirit of the ACA to help expand healthcare for all working families, this unwarranted change would subvert the law's intent to cover more Americans and would close off a much-needed health insurance option.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote "no" on H.R. 30.

Thank you for considering our views on this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Randi Weingarten
President

RW:ct opeiu#2 afl-cio