



March 12, 2015

The Honorable David Vitter
Chairman, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ben Cardin
Ranking Member, Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Vitter and Ranking Member Cardin:

Together, we the undersigned (The DC Chamber of Commerce, The Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and The Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington) represent more than 3,200 businesses in the metro DC area.

The DC Chamber of Commerce (DCCC) since 1938 has proudly served a diverse membership of businesses in the city – small, medium and large. The Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington (RAMW) is the regional trade association representing restaurants and the foodservice industry in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area. The Greater Washington Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GWHCC) supports the economic development of the Washington, DC metropolitan region by facilitating the success of Latino and other minority-owned businesses and the communities they serve.

We work in partnership with DC Health Link to educate and enroll the District's small businesses in affordable quality health insurance and we are customers as well.

We believe that privacy protections are critical to offering benefits like health insurance. We protect the privacy of our employees and have the same expectation that our information as employers is protected.

We are very concerned about recent press reports that the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is seeking information from an employer application Congress completed through DC Health Link. Privacy laws protect employers and do not distinguish between Congress and us in this matter. We are deeply concerned about the effort to collect information from the employer application.

We urge you to protect the privacy of employers and their employees in the District of Columbia and across the nation.

Sincerely,

Harry Wingo
President & CEO
DC Chamber of Commerce

Angela Franco
President & CEO
Greater Washington Hispanic
Chamber of Commerce

Kathy E. Hollinger
President & CEO
Restaurant Association
Metropolitan Washington