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LIUNA Members Lead Effort to Stop Taxation of Health Care Benefits

Union Tells Senator Baucus: Tax on Healthcare Benefits is “Dead on Arrival”

Workers Nationwide Reach Out to Senator with Their Opposition

Washington, DC (June 12, 2009) – LIUNA – the half-million member Laborers’ International Union of North America – is calling on Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus to fix America’s healthcare system without taxing working men and women who already pay too much.

In a letter to Senator Baucus, LIUNA President Terry O’Sullivan wrote, “LIUNA members are outraged at the prospect of being penalized for having healthcare coverage that protects them and their families. I cannot recall another issue that has so engaged and enraged workers.”

Over the next week, LIUNA members will write and call Senator Baucus’ office, telling him “don’t tax my healthcare benefits.”

The union notes that 30 percent of members’ healthcare premiums currently go to compensating for the uninsured. A tax on healthcare benefits is estimated to cost many working people thousands of dollars more a year.

“Our current healthcare system is already draining hard-earned money from the pockets of working people,” said O’Sullivan. “Taxing benefits will only increase the pain.”

In his letter, O’Sullivan noted that taxing healthcare benefits was the centerpiece of Senator John McCain’s healthcare proposal during his failed presidential campaign last year. In record numbers, LIUNA members rallied to support President Obama who promised to fix a broken system and build on what works.

“A tax on healthcare benefits is not what working people voted for,” said O’Sullivan. “Any plan that taxes these benefits is dead on arrival.”

LIUNA promised it will use all resources to vigorously oppose any reform package that taxes healthcare benefits and will work against the efforts of those promoting it.

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The half-million members of LIUNA – the Laborers’ International Union of North America – are on the forefront of the construction industry, a powerhouse of workers who are proud to build America.