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Link to article: <http://www.tampabay.com/news/health/multiple-factors-at-work-as-many-brace-for-higher-health-insurance/2236053>

Email Subject: Letter to the Editor

Hi,

I'm submitting the following letter on behalf of the CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters, Janet Trautwein. Is there any chance you might be able to run it?

Best,  
Kelly

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Kelly Loussedes  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
202-595-3074

Dear Editor,

A recent article reported that "several big-name insurance providers . . . have already proposed double-digit rate increases for individual health insurance" ("Multiple factors at work as many brace for higher health insurance premiums in 2016," July 3). But it failed to point out a big reason why premiums are rising -- a multibillion-dollar federal tax on health insurance.

Over the next decade, the tax will extract some \$145 billion from health insurers.<sup>1</sup> To come up with all that money, insurers have little choice but to raise premiums. The tax alone could tack on an additional \$5,000 in premiums for the average family over ten years.<sup>2</sup>

Repealing the tax, on the other hand, would reduce the average family's premium by as much as \$400 next year alone.<sup>3</sup>

Sincerely,

Janet Trautwein  
Executive Vice President and CEO  
National Association of Health Underwriters  
1212 New York Ave. NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.ahip.org/Issues/Premium-Tax.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> [http://stopthehit.com/sites/default/files/brochures/HIT\\_Just%20the%20Facts\\_Revised.pdf](http://stopthehit.com/sites/default/files/brochures/HIT_Just%20the%20Facts_Revised.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://stopthehit.com/sites/default/files/brochures/HIT\\_Just%20the%20Facts\\_Revised.pdf](http://stopthehit.com/sites/default/files/brochures/HIT_Just%20the%20Facts_Revised.pdf)