

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)

Increase access to and affordability of coverage through private sector initiatives

Organization Description: NFIB is an advocacy organization representing small and independent businesses. Founded in 1943, NFIB represents the consensus views of its members in Washington, DC and the states. NFIB's mission is to promote and protect the right of its members to own, operate and grow their businesses. In addition to advocacy, by pooling the purchasing power of its members, NFIB gives members access to many business products and services at discounted costs.

Proposal Summary: NFIB's policy proposals for 2005 and 2006 support efforts to expand access to quality health care coverage by creating affordable coverage options for employers. NFIB advocates to reduce the number of uninsured Americans by supporting small business health plans, promoting free-market reforms, and permitting individuals to purchase health insurance coverage over state lines. NFIB's policy agenda includes reducing health care costs by supporting health savings accounts and medical liability reform.

- **Coverage:** NFIB supports association health plans, giving small businesses the same accessibility, affordability, and choice in the marketplace that large businesses enjoy. These health plans would permit small business owners to group together as a trade organization across state lines to purchase health insurance. NFIB recommends enacting free-market reforms, as opposed to passing health insurance mandates, which would permit small business owners to decide which benefits to offer their employees. NFIB seeks to reduce health care costs to employers by implementing and/or expanding the use of health savings accounts, health reimbursement arrangements, and flexible spending accounts, giving employees the choice to control and spend health care dollars as they see fit.
- **Cost:** NFIB supports medical liability reform legislation that caps non-economic damages at \$250,000, abolishes joint and several liability, and implements a sliding scale for attorneys' contingency fees. It also advocates for updating the tax code to expand the deductibility of health insurance so that all individuals who purchase their own health insurance receive an immediate 100 percent tax deduction.

Proposal Date: 2005-2006

Sources: *NFIB National Agenda – Health Care*, <http://www.nfib.com/page/healthcare.html>; *NFIB Small-Business Growth Agenda for the 109th Congress*, <http://www.nfib.com/object/agenda>.