

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**CONTACT: Stephanie Cathcart**
(202) 314-2056**NFIB Praises U.S. Reps. Kind, Heger for Introduction of
Self-Employed Tax Equity Bill***Bipartisan bill allows self-employed businesses to deduct health-care costs*

Washington, D.C., October 4, 2007 — The “Equity for Our Nation’s Self-Employed Act” (H.R. 3660) was recently introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives. This bill would help put self-employed businesses on equal footing with their larger counterparts by permitting health-insurance premiums to be deducted from both their income and payroll taxes.

Under current law, corporations may deduct health-insurance premiums as a business expense and forego payroll (FICA) taxes on these costs. The self-employed are unable to take this deduction and, as a result, pay an additional 15.3 percent tax on their premiums. H.R. 3660, introduced by Rep. Ron Kind and Rep. Wally Heger, aims to address this tax inequity. This legislation would correct the tax code, which would increase health insurance affordability for our nation’s self-employed entrepreneurs.

Dan Danner, executive vice president of the National Federation of Independent Business, the nation’s leading small-business advocacy group, issued the following statement in response to H.R. 3660:

“This bipartisan legislation directly addresses the needs of our nation’s self-employed businesses. These business owners shouldn’t be punished for their entrepreneurial spirit and drive. To treat entrepreneurs differently than those who receive their health care from a corporation punishes them simply because they are self-employed. Fixing this inequality in the tax code is a critical step in helping entrepreneurs gain access to more affordable health-care options.

“We are especially happy to see the bipartisan support and commitment from Rep. Kind and Rep. Heger. The best way for our nation’s small businesses and self-employed to have meaningful health-care reform is through collaborative, bipartisan efforts like this.

“As small businesses continue to bear a disproportionately large burden of increasing health-care costs, leveling the tax playing field is an excellent first step to help them purchase health care with pre-tax dollars. This, in turn, will help to reduce the number of uninsured Americans.

“We will continue to work with leaders on both sides of the aisle and encourage the full Congress to act this year to increase access to affordable health care – regardless of where health insurance is purchased.”

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NFIB is the nation’s leading small-business advocacy association, with offices in Washington, D.C. and all 50 state capitals. Founded in 1943 as a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, NFIB gives small- and independent-business owners a voice in shaping the public policy issues that affect their business. NFIB’s powerful network of grassroots activists send their views directly to state and federal lawmakers through our unique member-only ballot, thus playing a critical role in supporting America’s free enterprise system.

NFIB’s mission is to promote and protect the right of our members to own, operate and grow their businesses. More information about NFIB is available online at www.NFIB.com/newsroom.