



VIA FACSIMILE

July 12, 2005

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW), I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Accountability Act, S. 1286.

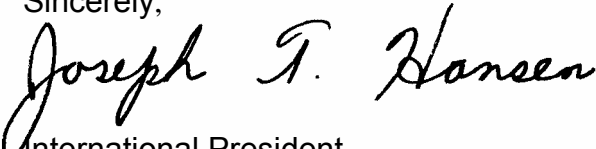
This important legislation would require states to produce annual reports that list by company the number of employees who rely on publicly-funded health care and the cost to state taxpayers for providing this coverage. This important information will enable federal and state policymakers to determine which employers are shifting their responsibility to provide health care coverage for their employees onto state taxpayers.

UFCW has a long and historic record of supporting health care coverage for workers, especially low-income workers. We are fully committed to expanding quality, accessible, affordable health care for all our nation's citizens because we know how important health care coverage is for every American family. Even as Medicaid is facing tremendous budget pressures at the state and federal levels, when employer-provided health care has become a competitive issue between companies, and there are a growing number of uninsured workers, the need for comprehensive health care reform is clear. As we attempt to address this critical issue, we believe that the information provided by S. 1286 is important to policymakers and health care advocates as well as employers.

We believe that collecting this information is critical. For example, in the 15 states that have collected information on employees who are dependent on state health care assistance, one company—Wal-Mart—has cost taxpayers more than \$210 million by shifting the cost of health care to states such as Massachusetts, Georgia, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

Once again, we strongly urge your support and cosponsorship of S. 1286. Thank you for your attention to this request, and please feel free to contact me if you need more information.

Sincerely,


International President