



URGENT NOTICE

REGARDING HEALTHCARE REFORM

While Local 150 supports our leaders' efforts to provide healthcare to all Americans, the legislation that was passed out of the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday contains language that would negatively impact the Midwest Operating Engineers Health and Welfare Fund. The bill would place heavy taxes on multi-employer benefit funds that would directly affect the benefits you receive.

As it is currently written, this bill would:

TAX YOUR BENEFITS- This reform plan would be funded by raising taxes on healthcare benefits. Plans that offer benefits costing more than \$8,000 for individuals or \$21,000 for families would face a 40 percent tax. When the tax takes effect in 2013, we would be well above this minimum and thus subject to the tax, would add up to \$4,400 per year on each individual's benefits alone.

ALLOW THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INTERFERE WITH M.O.E.- The federal government would be able to dictate what levels of coverage are allowed, not only setting minimum levels of coverage but also maximum levels.

PLACE TAXES ON M.O.E.- Despite its status as a not-for-profit entity, M.O.E. would be taxed as if it was a for-profit insurance company, adding costs to providing benefits to our members. These costs would take away dollars that are currently used to pay for health insurance, requiring the fund to either save money by reducing benefits or require members to allocate more money to benefits in future contracts.

PUNISH UNION MEMBERS- For years, union members have elected to forgo larger pay increases by allocating funds to pay for quality healthcare for themselves and their families. Now, that decision would be punished through the taxation of the benefits we have secured in collective bargaining.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Please call your United States Senators and Congressmen **TODAY!** Tell them that you oppose any healthcare reform that:

- taxes individual or family plans
- interferes with union members' right to decide their level of coverage through collective bargaining
- places additional crippling taxes on multi-employer benefit funds, like M.O.E.

Local 150 has done what is right for decades by providing quality healthcare for our members, and while we think all workers should have access to quality coverage, our benefits should not be taxed to provide healthcare for other workers.

Phone Numbers for your Senators and Congressmen are listed on the back of this sheet.

LEGISLATOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Below are the names and contact numbers of legislators in Local 150's jurisdiction. Please take the time to call these Senators and Congressmen and repeat the points that were outlined on the front of this sheet.

This legislation is reaching a critical point, so we need you to make these calls today!

<u>INDIANA SENATORS</u>		
<i>Name</i>	<i>Local Office Number</i>	<i>Washington Office Number</i>
Richard Lugar	219-548-8035	202-224-4814
Evan Bayh	219-852-2763	202-224-5623

<u>INDIANA CONGRESSMEN</u>			
<i>Name</i>	<i>Dist.</i>	<i>Local Office Number</i>	<i>Washington Office Number</i>
Peter Visclosky	1	219-795-1844	202-225-2461
Joe Donnelly	2	574-288-2780	202-225-3915
Mark Souder	3	574-533-5802	202-225-4436
Dan Burton	5	317-848-0201	202-225-2276