



July 23, 2009

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) is concerned about how current health care legislative proposals will impact seasonal businesses in our industry. The attractions industry is a vital part of the U.S. economy. There are more than 400 amusement parks and attractions in the United States, providing jobs for approximately 500,000 full-time and seasonal employees. IAAPA is the largest international trade association for permanently situated amusement facilities and attractions. Our members include amusement and theme parks, waterparks, attractions, family entertainment centers, arcades, zoos, aquariums, museums, science centers, resorts, casinos and the manufacturers and suppliers who service them.

Our industry understands the need for a healthcare system that works efficiently and provides access to affordable, high-quality health care. However, we are troubled by the speed with which Congress is considering the legislation. A number of vastly different health care reform bills are rapidly working their way through Congress. Careful, deliberate consideration of these bills and their consequences, both intended and unintended, is critical. The process needs to be slowed down so that careful consideration is given to all aspects of health care before a bill is signed into law.

Due to the seasonal nature of the industry, many amusement parks and attractions have limited operating days each year. Businesses do maintain some full-time year-round employees, but their seasonal workforce is often very large in comparison. Seasonal workers are essential for the smooth operation of the parks but they are unique in that the time they spend with our businesses is very short.

There does not appear to be any recognition of the unique challenges in providing health insurance to seasonal workers present in the current bills. Many of our seasonal employees are young people and students. Our members will smile as they proudly tell you about watching their employees grow up within the company, returning summer after summer to work at their facility. These workers are very often covered under their parents' or schools' health insurance plans. Would we be required to provide coverage for workers who can already obtain it through their parents or their school?

The required enrollment paperwork and eligibility delay for medical insurance can often take a month or two—half the time a seasonal worker is employed. How can we administer coverage for such a short period of time and would employees really benefit from it? What would be the cost of administering plans for such a large group of very short term workers? Finally, what would the impact of these additional costs be on a seasonal business's ability to survive, particularly in the current economy?

As Congress considers healthcare reform, I hope you will consider both the positive and negative impact proposals will have and keep in mind the challenges these reforms will present to seasonal employers.

Sincerely,

Charles W. Bray
President and CEO

IAAPA

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2009 EVENTS

Euro Attractions Show
September 30-October 2
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

IAAPA Attractions Expo
November 16-20
Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

2010 EVENTS

Asian Attractions Expo
July 13-16
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia