



INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL & TECHNICAL ENGINEERS  
AFL-CIO & CLC

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To: IFPTE Affiliates  
From: Gregory J. Junemann, President   
Re: Agreement on Health Insurance Excise Tax  
Date: January 19, 2010

*Attached please find a fact sheet on the agreement worked out between labor and the White House on the health care premium excise tax.*

*As you know, we, along with the AFL-CIO, put the issue of the unfair excise tax at the center of the health care debate and forced both the White House and Congressional leaders to make major changes to the original proposal. Though we were unable to completely eliminate the tax from the bill, the changes that have been agreed to will substantially limit its impact on most middle class families, including our members. Under the agreement negotiated with the White House, most union plans in the private and public sectors will not be subject to the tax until 2018 at the earliest. Unfortunately federal workers under the Federal Employees Health Benefits Plan (FEHBP) were not exempted because the President wants to ensure that members of the House and Senate, who receive benefits under FEHBP, will be taxed on their benefits. IFPTE is hopeful that in the coming days that an agreement can be reached with the White House that will exempt unionized federal workers from the tax, while still requiring members of Congress to incur the tax.*

*The final bill will not be perfect and we will not get everything we want, but we are very encouraged by the progress that has been made on health care reform in the last few days. We are deeply proud of the constructive role labor played in advancing health care reform.*

*Over the next couple of weeks, we will continue to work diligently to improve the bill to make it fairer for working people by including federal workers in the excise tax exemption through 2018, strengthening requirements for employers, including small construction employers, establishing a strong national insurance exchange, fully-funding the reinsurance program for retirees, and preserving the Medicare Part D subsidy for work based drug plans. And of course, we will be gearing up a massive grass roots mobilization for final passage of the bill.*

*Thank you for your tremendous effort in helping to get us nearer to our goal.*

GJJ/pjc  
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