

What They're Saying About The "Health Insurance Tax" (HIT)

The Affordable Care Act's health insurance tax (HIT) is set to be reinstated and negatively impact consumers in 2018 unless Congress acts to repeal it. Recent opinion columns in newspapers, statements by Covered California, and stakeholder groups nationally and here in California have singled out the Affordable Care Act's HIT as a detriment to keeping the costs of premiums low and affordable. Here are some excerpts from recent opinion columns and stakeholder reports that point out the problems with the HIT, which must be repealed by Congress to avoid higher premiums:

STOP THE

HIT

"The HIT could cost California between 11,652 and 23,320 jobs by 2023, and a decline in the state's GDP by up to \$3.9 billion over a decade."



"In addition to the current uncertainty in the market, this year's rates feature a one-time adjustment for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act's health insurance tax (HIT), which adds 2.8 percent to the rate change. Without the addition of the HIT, Covered California's rate change would be less than 10 percent..."

THE SACRAMENTO BEE

[Small Businesses Can't Afford Another Health Tax](#)

Aug. 29, 2017 – Opinion editorial by Julian Canete, California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

“With a \$156 billion drag on the private sector from the health tax over 10 years, however, it will be much harder for small businesses to grow...”

“Even employees who keep their positions may be hit with lower wages because of the tax, or receive less generous insurance with higher out-of-pocket costs, which will drain family budgets. Some workers may lose employer-based health insurance altogether...”

“Four hundred lawmakers – Republicans and Democrats – came together less than two years ago to put off the tax for 2017. They can do so again. California’s congressional delegation should push for legislation to be crafted right away, so the problem can be solved soon after they return to Washington next month...”

The Modesto Bee

modbee.com

[Putting a HIT on Seniors; This Tax is Really Going To Hurt](#)

Aug. 29, 2017 – Opinion editorial by John Kehoe, California Senior Advocates League

“Now there is a huge complication facing California’s seniors. It’s called the Health Insurance Tax, or HIT. It’s set to go into effect on Jan. 1 and will add \$245 to the average annual premium for every Medicare Advantage beneficiary...”



[An August 2017 Oliver Wyman analysis](#) – broken down by coverage type – estimates that if the health insurance tax is reinstated in 2018, consumers will see an average premium increase of: \$158 for individual coverage, \$185 for small group individual coverage, \$188 for large group individual coverage, \$181 for Medicaid, and \$245 for Medicare advantage.