

Congress Tackles Health Care, Energy

BILL NAME	SUMMARY OF BILL AND WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU	U.S. CHAMBER'S POSITION	STATUS
<p>Death Tax Repeal H.R. 8 Death Tax Permanency Act of 2005</p>	<p>This bill would provide a full and permanent repeal of the death tax. Congress enacted a phaseout of the death tax in 2001, with its complete repeal scheduled to occur in 2010. However, the tax springs back to life in 2011 with a 55% top tax rate and only a \$1 million exemption amount.</p>	<p>The Chamber strongly urges Congress to permanently repeal the death tax because it is burdensome to small family-owned businesses and farms.</p>	<p> Passed the House April 13, 2005. Senate vote to overcome filibuster failed June 8, 2006.</p>
<p>Legal Reform H.R. 420 Lawsuit Abuse Reduction Act of 2005</p>	<p>This bill would mandate monetary sanctions against attorneys who file frivolous lawsuits. It also contains provisions designed to prevent venue shopping.</p>	<p>The Chamber supports this bill because it would help restore common sense and fairness to our legal system.</p>	<p> Passed the House October 27, 2005.</p>
<p>Health Insurance S. 2607 Small Business Health Education And Awareness Act of 2006</p>	<p>This legislation would authorize a pilot program through the Small Business Development network that would provide much-needed health care insurance assistance and education to the nation's small and medium-size employers.</p>	<p>The Chamber supports measures to make the purchasing of health insurance easier for small businesses.</p>	<p> Introduced April 7, 2006, and referred to Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.</p>
<p>Small Business Health Care H.R. 4961 Self-Employed Health Care Affordability Act of 2006</p>	<p>This bill would allow sole proprietors and partnerships to exclude the value of health care premiums when calculating Social Security and Medicare taxes, an exclusion already enjoyed by owners of subchapter S corporations and C corporations.</p>	<p>As a long-standing advocate of affordable health care, the Chamber believes small business owners should not be penalized with an additional tax on their health care premiums for merely choosing one form of business over another.</p>	<p> Introduced in the House March 15, 2006; referred to Ways and Means Committee.</p>
<p>Energy H.R. 5254 Refinery Permit Process Schedule Act</p>	<p>This bill would streamline the myriad local, state, and federal regulations that impede the development of new refinery capacity. It would create the position of a federal coordinator to function as a one-stop shop for permit applicants seeking to build new refineries or expand existing ones.</p>	<p>The Chamber strongly supports legislation to increase domestic energy supplies, thereby lowering costs.</p>	<p> Passed the House June 6, 2006.</p>