

# START OVER!

1325 G STREET N.W., SUITE 1000, WASHINGTON, DC 20005  
TEL: 202-872-0885 FAX: 202-296-5940

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January 31, 2012

*To All Members of the U.S. House of Representatives:*

We understand that later this week the House will consider H.R. 1173, *Fiscal Responsibility and Retirement Security Act*, legislation to repeal the Community Living Assistance Service and Supports (CLASS) Act which was enacted as part of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PL 111-48). On behalf of Start Over!, a coalition of more than 250 trade associations representing employers of all sizes across the entire span of the U.S. economy, we write in strong support of H.R. 1173 and to urge its passage.

As well intentioned as the CLASS Act is, it is irrationally designed as an insurance program and a budgetary “train wreck” waiting to happen that may only be avoided by its complete repeal. To underscore this point, the Chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, Senator Kent Conrad (D-ND), referred to CLASS as “a Ponzi scheme of the first order, the kind of thing that Bernie Madoff would have been proud of” and the Administration’s Chief Medicare Actuary acknowledged the “very serious risk that the problem of adverse selection will make the CLASS program unsustainable”. More recently, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius seemed to acquiesce to the reality that CLASS is unworkable as constructed when she cancelled the department’s implementation effort and told the Congress, “Despite our best analytical efforts, I do not see a viable path forward for CLASS implementation at this time.”

The fundamental flaws of the CLASS Act are not going to magically disappear, and under the circumstances there does not seem to be any rational argument for leaving the CLASS Act in place. For this reason, we believe the *Fiscal Responsibility and Retirement Security Act* is worthy of broad bipartisan support and again urge all Members to vote in favor of the bill when the House considers H.R. 1173.

On behalf of the members of Start Over!, thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

**THE START OVER COALITION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

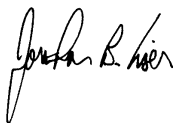
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Geoffrey Burr, Vice President-Government Affairs  
Associated Builders and Contractors



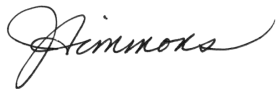
Stephen E. Sandherr, Chief Executive Officer  
Associated General Contractors



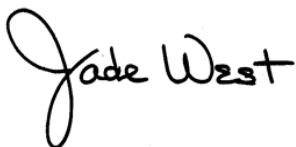
Jon Eisen, Senior Vice President-Government Relations  
International Foodservice Distributors Association



Stephen J. Caldeira, President & Chief Executive Officer  
International Franchise Association



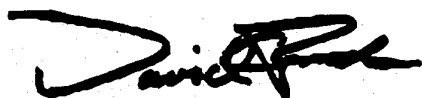
Jay Timmons, President  
National Association of Manufacturers



Jade West, Senior Vice President-Government Relations  
National Association of Wholesaler-Distributors



Dan Danner, President & CEO  
National Federation of Independent Business



David French, Senior Vice President-Government Relations  
National Retail Federation



Karen Kerrigan, President & CEO  
Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council



R. Bruce Josten, Executive Vice President-Government Affairs  
U.S. Chamber of Commerce