



February 8, 2019

Lee Saunders  
President

Elissa McBride  
Secretary-Treasurer

**Vice Presidents**

Jody Barr  
New Britain, CT

Se'Adoreia K. Brown  
Miami Springs, FL

Richard L. Caponi  
Pittsburgh, PA

Stacy Chamberlain  
Portland, OR

Connie Derr  
Albuquerque, NM

Greg Devereux  
Olympia, WA

Daniel DiClemente  
North Chili, NY

Danny Donohue  
Albany, NY

Denise Duncan  
San Dimas, CA

David R. Fillman  
Harrisburg, PA

Henry A. Garrido  
New York, NY

Johanna Puno Hester  
San Diego, CA

Danny J. Himan  
Des Moines, IA

Nicholas J. LaMorre  
Cammack, NY

John A. Lyall  
Warthington, OH

Kathryn Lybarger  
Oakland, CA

Roberta Lynch  
Chicago, IL

Christopher Mabe  
Westerville, OH

Glenard S. Middleton Sr.  
Baltimore, MD

Douglas Moore Jr.  
San Diego, CA

Frank Moroney  
Boston, MA

Michael Newman  
Chicago, IL

Henry Nicholas  
Philadelphia, PA

Debbie Parks  
Hamilton, NJ

Randy Perreira  
Honolulu, HI

Steven Quick Sr.  
Indianapolis, IN

Lawrence A. Roehrig  
Lansing, MI

Joseph P. Rugola  
Columbus, OH

Alan F. Shanahan  
Los Angeles, CA

Paul Spink  
Milwaukee, WI

Mary E. Sullivan  
Albany, NY

Braulio Torres  
San Juan, PR

Anthony Wells  
New York, NY

John P. Westmoreland  
South St. Paul, MN

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Courtney:

On behalf of the members of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), thank you for your ongoing leadership and for continuing to champion the "Middle Class Health Benefits Tax Repeal Act of 2019," H.R. 748. AFSCME greatly appreciates you reintroducing this legislation to repeal the 40 percent tax on employer sponsored high cost worker and retiree health benefits. Your legislation will help AFSCME members and families both in Connecticut and all across America maintain their health care benefits and afford the medical services they need.

AFSCME strongly supports H.R. 748 because the 40 percent tax already is forcing insurers and employers to lower health benefits and shift medical costs onto workers and retirees. This tax is a poorly targeted and ineffective tool. It is regressive, disproportionately burdens working families, and discriminates against older or female dominated occupations like nurses and teachers.

Through your efforts and your staff's dedicated work, the legislation has generated broad bipartisan congressional support and diverse endorsements. AFSCME will continue our strong support and advocacy for this important bill.

Thank you again for your longstanding leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with you to get your legislation enacted.

Sincerely,

Scott Frey

Director of Federal Government Affairs

SF:MG:mc

*Joe,  
We deeply appreciate your leadership!*

**American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO**

TEL (202) 429-1000 FAX (202) 429-1293 TDD (202) 659-0446 WEB www.afscme.org 1625 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036-5687