



NATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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August 12, 2008

The Honorable Dick Durbin
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Assistant Majority Leader Durbin,

We are writing today on behalf of the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce (NGLCC) to commend your introduction of S. 2795, the Small Business Health Options Program Act of 2008 (SHOP).

The NGLCC is the business advocate and direct link between LGBT business owners, corporations and government. As the umbrella organization for 47 state and local lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) chambers of commerce and business organizations, the NGLCC represents the interests of the more than 1.4 million LGBT owned businesses in the United States.

As you know, SHOP will allow LGBT and allied businesses across the country to band together for the benefits of lower healthcare costs; thus allowing the more than 1.4 million LGBT owned businesses across the country to then provide healthcare benefits to their employees and their families. In addition, the tax credit provided to small business owners who pay 60% of their employees premiums and to those entrepreneurs who are self-employed will certainly help bolster the small business engine that runs the United States economy.

Again, we commend your introduction of S. 2795 and look forward to its bi-partisan passage in the U.S. Senate.

Warm regards,

Justin G. Nelson
Co-Founder and President

Chance Mitchell
Co-Founder and CEO