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My name is Don Orange. I'm a small business owner from Vancouver, Washington and a member of the Main Street Alliance, a coalition of more than 10,000 small businesses across the country. I serve as chair of the state Main Street Alliance coalition in my home state of Washington.

I own an auto shop – Hoesly ECO Auto & Tire. We fix cars. We change tires. It's a family owned and operated business that's been around since 1946. I've got five employees. And my employees are like family to me. I want to treat them right.

We provide health care coverage, paying 100 percent of the premiums for our employees and 50 percent of the premiums for their dependents. But every year, health care costs keep rising for small businesses like mine, often times in double digits. For a number of years, I was moonlighting as a truck driver, just to save my business money on health care.

Passing health care reform has been the best thing Congress has done for my small business in decades.

The small business tax credit in the Affordable Care Act cut my health care costs for 2010 by 14%. For a small business like mine, these are some serious savings. Everything I paid for our premiums in December and most of November – I'll be seeing all that money in savings as I finish my 2010 taxes, and that's real money that I can plow back into running a successful small business.

The Affordable Care Act also ensures that small businesses are getting good value for our premium dollars by requiring insurance companies to limit the percentage of our premiums they can direct to administrative overhead, marketing, lobbying, and profits.

As the law continues to be implemented, a new competitive health insurance marketplace will give small businesses like mine more control, quality choices, bargaining power, and better protections when buying insurance.

And as more small businesses – and others – gain health coverage and start paying into the system, those of us who already have it will see the "hidden tax" we pay now – the cost-shifting from uncompensated care – go down.

These are all good things for small businesses.

There are some people in Congress, unfortunately including my own Congresswoman – Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler – who want to repeal or defund health care reform.

They fail to understand that repealing health care would mean a tax hike for small businesses like mine, and a return to a system that stacks the deck against small businesses and leaves both our physical health and our financial survival in the hands of the insurance companies.

Just one year after being signed into law, the Affordable Care Act is already starting to lower costs for small businesses like mine. It's working for me. Let's let it continue to work for small businesses in Washington State and across the country. Let's keep moving forward. Small businesses can't afford to go back.