



# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN BUSINESS OWNERS

Date: April 30, 2003  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Erin M. Fuller  
Telephone: 1.800.55.NAWBO  
e-mail: efuller@nawbo.org

## Women Business Owners Support the Self-Employed Health Care Portability Act

McLean (Tysons Corner), Virginia – The National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO) joined several other national organizations today in support of the Self-Employed Health Care Portability Act, legislation for which is being introduced today in the U.S. House of Representatives. Chairman of the House Small Business Committee Donald Manzullo (R-IL) and Committee Democratic Ranking Member Nydia Velazquez (D-NY) are sponsoring the legislation.

The Bill seeks to amend the Internal Revenue Code to provide that the deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals be allowed in determining the self-employment social security tax. According to the National Association for the Self-Employed, more than 60 percent of America's 41 million uninsured are from households headed by a self-employed individual, with costs cited as the major reason for the lapse in coverage. The self-employed currently pay on average 18 percent more for health insurance than those who work for larger companies, a situation rooted in federal tax codes that deal jolting penalties to "micro-businesses." While corporations are able to deduct health insurance premiums as a business expense and forego FICA (Social Security and Medicare) taxes on these expenses, the self-employed are unable to deduct premiums as a business expense and are required to pay an additional 15.3 percent self-employment tax on these expenses. Micro-businesses also frequently miss out on the economies of scale available to bigger businesses when purchasing health insurance.

"With women-owned businesses growing at a rate of twice that of all business in the U.S., it is important that we expand access to health care for all Americans," states Mary J. MacRae, NAWBO's national president. "We are pleased to support this bi-partisan effort to find a solution to the higher financial burden that many small businesses bear to support health insurance costs."

NAWBO joins organizations including: National Association for the Self-Employed (NASE); National Small Business United (NSBU); National Federation of Independent Businesses (NFIB); Small Business Legislative Council; Women Entrepreneurs Inc.; Women Impacting Public Policy; Communicating for Agriculture & the Self-Employed; and, the American Farm Bureau Federation in support for this proposed legislation.

NAWBO was founded by a group of women in Washington, D.C. in 1975 when they started meeting informally to discuss their businesses and the obstacles they faced. Throughout the past 25 years, NAWBO has grown to 90 chapters across the country with 8,000 members, and has been instrumental in the passage of major legislation that has helped create a more level playing field for all women business owners. Equal access to capital and federal procurement goals are two examples of significant gains NAWBO has made.

###