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Uniting around key reforms

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About 70 million people work for small businesses. Those are numbers that can wield incredible influence on public policy decisions.

Small-business owners have suggested in recent surveys that the economy is their top concern — and they're carefully listening to what the presidential candidates are saying about taxes, health insurance and other key issues.

John McCain emphasizes lowering corporate taxes, making permanent the Bush tax cuts, and lowering the capital gains tax. Barack Obama would raise capital gains and income taxes on individuals making more than \$250,000, but would exempt small businesses from capital gains.

On health care, Sen. Obama provides tax credits to employers paying insurance premiums, but allows individuals who can't afford insurance to buy a government plan. Sen. McCain establishes refundable health care credits for individuals to purchase their own insurance available across state lines.

Both candidates acknowledge the need for flexible workplaces so parents can balance family with work.

Small business is the economic engine that drives our country. Each year, small businesses create two-thirds of all new jobs, and contribute nearly half of the national GDP. Policy changes that help small business grow and prosper will help America grow.

In unity, there could be strength. Imagine what might happen if small businesses and their employees could rally around a few key reforms.

Specifically, the next president should work to eliminate the alternative minimum tax, lower corporate tax rates from 35% to 25% and eliminate the capital gains tax entirely. Those are the types of policy changes that small-business owners and employees would both embrace.