



**THE VOICE OF FOOD RETAIL**

Feeding Families  Enriching Lives

February 3, 2014

The Honorable David L. Camp  
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Camp,

On behalf of the supermarket, grocery store, and food wholesaler industry, the Food Marketing Institute (FMI)<sup>i</sup> is writing in support of the House Ways and Means Committee mark-up of H.R. 2575 that amends the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), so the definition of “full-time employee” is in line with practical business standards.

H.R. 2575 would provide additional flexibility in order for food retailers to continue offering quality, affordable health coverage to their current full-time employees. The ACA’s re-defining of full-time employees to those averaging 30-hours per week has far-reaching consequences on how food retailers manage their workforces, adjust work schedules and offer employee benefits well beyond health care.

Food retailers and wholesalers employ 3.5 million full-time, part-time and seasonal workers—many operating under fluctuating work schedules in order to meet employee needs and varying consumer demand. FMI has been continually seeking flexibility and ways to minimize new burdens in implementing regulations and/or changes to the Affordable Care Act in order for retailers and wholesalers to continue providing quality health coverage that is affordable and of value to both the employee and the employer. While the Administration has taken positive steps to provide flexibility for food retailers within the scope of the health coverage law, the ACA’s 30-hour per week definition for full-time employees is a critical outstanding concern for food retailers that needs to be addressed.

FMI appreciates the Committee’s consideration of H.R. 2575, and we offer our support for this legislation and for efforts to address this issue this year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hatcher  
Senior Vice President, Government and Public Affairs  
Food Marketing Institute

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<sup>i</sup> Food Marketing Institute proudly advocates on behalf of the food retail industry. FMI’s U.S. members operate nearly 40,000 retail food stores and 25,000 pharmacies, representing a combined annual sales volume of almost \$770 billion. Through programs in public affairs, food safety, research, education and industry relations, FMI offers resources and provides valuable benefits to more than 1,225 food retail and wholesale member companies in the United States and around the world. FMI membership covers the spectrum of diverse venues where food is sold, including single owner grocery stores, large multi-store supermarket chains and mixed retail stores. For more information, visit [www.fmi.org](http://www.fmi.org) and for information regarding the FMI foundation, visit [www.fmifoundation.org](http://www.fmifoundation.org).