

Group fights health insurers fee

By Steve Jordon

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A group of business associations hopes to build grass-roots support for repealing part of the federal health care law scheduled to levy a fee on health insurers starting in 2014.

The group, headed by the National Federation of Independent Business, sponsored a meeting Wednesday attended by 15 people at the Garden Cafe in Rockbrook Plaza in Omaha. It held an earlier meeting in Norfolk, Neb., and plans others in Lincoln, Grand Island, Kearney and North Platte, as well as in other states.

The fee per person covered is slated to raise \$8.7 billion in 2014 and \$14.3 billion a year by 2018, revenue that is intended to offset other provisions of the health care law so that it would be "revenue-neutral." The fee also is intended to come out of extra profits that health insurers would receive by selling insurance to millions more Americans, who are mandated to buy it under the new law.

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