



AMERICAN BENEFITS  
COUNCIL

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Council applauds Supreme Court decision in *Gobeille* ERISA preemption case

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “ERISA’s federal preemption standard is the foundation on which employer-sponsored health and benefit plans are built, and we oppose any efforts to erode or diminish its importance,” American Benefits Council President James A. Klein said today.

“We support the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Gobeille, Chair of the Vermont Green Mountain Care Board v. Liberty Mutual Insurance Co.*, in which the court underscored the value of uniform benefit plan administration by multi-state employers,” Klein said.

The Council, in conjunction with five other national employer and insurer groups, submitted [an \*amicus\* \(“friend of the court”\) brief](#) to the high court in October 2015, arguing that Vermont’s all-payer claims database and similar state programs undercut ERISA’s objectives by subjecting self-insured plans to a morass of state reporting requirements that Congress neither intended nor allowed in enacting ERISA. Justice Stephen Breyer cited the Council’s brief as an authority in his concurring opinion.

“We are deeply gratified that the Supreme Court affirmed that ERISA preemption is necessary to ‘prevent multiple jurisdictions from imposing differing, or even parallel, regulations, creating wasteful administrative costs and threatening to subject plans to wide-ranging liability.’” Klein said. “Today’s decision helps preserve the employer-sponsored health benefits enjoyed by millions of Americans.”

For more information on the Council’s health policy agenda or its *amicus* brief program, or to arrange an interview with Council staff, please contact Jason Hammersla, Council

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*The American Benefits Council is the national trade association for companies concerned about federal legislation and regulations affecting all aspects of the employee benefits system. The Council's members represent the entire spectrum of the private employee benefits community and either sponsor directly or administer retirement and health plans covering more than 100 million Americans.*