Council commends House action on HSAs, urges permanent repeal of ‘Cadillac Tax’
Consideration of health care bills an opportunity to enact real change

WASHINGTON, D.C. — “Just as employers are constantly innovating and working to improve health care accessibility and affordability for more than 178 million Americans nationwide, lawmakers in the U.S. House of Representatives are making strides by considering a package of useful health reforms this week,” Council president James A. Klein said today.

“Congress must not stop here. It is clear that a great deal more must be done to preserve and protect the high-quality coverage upon which so many American families rely,” Klein said. “This moment is a golden opportunity to strengthen the employer-sponsored system.”

As part of its health reform agenda, the Council continues to urge Congress to:

• Enact permanent repeal of the 40 percent “Cadillac Tax” on employer-provided health coverage.

• Provide meaningful relief from the Affordable Care Act’s employer mandate and burdensome reporting requirements, as in H.R. 4616, which was recently approved by the House Ways and Means Committee.

• Build on the latest health savings account (HSA) improvements by improving coverage for on-site and near-site clinics offered by employers.

• Protect ERISA’s longstanding federal framework for benefit plan administration.
“Two weeks ago, we advised Congress to ‘think big.’ Today we urge Congress to ‘seize the day’ and enact reforms that will make a meaningful difference to American workers’ well-being – and their wallets,” Klein said.

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Klein or Ilyse Schuman, Council senior vice president, health policy, contact Jason Hammersla, Council vice president of communications, at jhammersla@abcstaff.org or by phone at 202-289-6700 (office) or (202) 422-4652 (cell).

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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.