



AMERICAN BENEFITS  
COUNCIL

# NEWS RELEASE

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*American Benefits Council to help lead Consumers First health alliance*

## **Employers determined to find a solution to problem of escalating health care costs**

WASHINGTON, DC – “The majority of Americans today – more than 181 million people – receive health care coverage through an employer, with employers paying more than \$725 billion to provide group health insurance.<sup>1</sup> That makes employers a uniquely important purchaser of health care,” said Ilyse Schuman, senior vice president, health policy, for the American Benefits Council.

“Employers are committed to fixing the problem of soaring health care costs,” Schuman said. “That is why we are so proud to join with Families USA, providers, organized labor and others to form [Consumers First: The Alliance to Make the Health Care System Work for Everyone](#).”

Consumers First has released a [Call to Action paper](#) (and [one-page summary](#)) that identifies the “significant economic distortions in the health care payment and delivery system” that drive high costs and low-quality care.

The Council will add the perspective of large employer health plan sponsors, as embodied by our [March 1 letter to Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions \(HELP\) Committee leaders](#) including specific recommendations lawmakers should take to lower health care costs. As the alliance works toward shared long-term goals, we hope to achieve short-term success on matters such as “surprise” medical billing and repeal of the 40% “Cadillac” tax on employer plans.

“These issues have stymied policymakers and stakeholders for decades but the status quo is no longer sustainable,” Schuman said. “Together we must and will find a way to align the

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<sup>1</sup> National Income and Products Accounts, Bureau of Economic Analysis and Commerce, Table 7.8: Supplements to Wages and Salaries by Type, Last Updated July 31, 2018

economic incentives of the health care system with affordable, high-quality health care for all of America's families."

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

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*The Council is a public policy organization whose members include over 220 of the world's largest corporations, as ranked by Fortune and Forbes. Collectively, the Council's members either directly sponsor or administer health and retirement benefits for virtually all Americans covered by employer-sponsored plans.*