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Council offers support for federal paid leave standard

'Workflex' bill would provide relief from patchwork state-by-state regulation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — “Paid leave is an extraordinarily complex challenge, not only for working families but for employers of all sizes, across the country,” Council senior vice president, health policy, Ilyse Schuman said today in conjunction with a July 24 subcommittee hearing to discuss the Workflex in the 21st Century Act (H.R. 4219).

The Council submitted [a statement for the official hearing record](#) with the U.S. House of Representatives Education and the Workforce Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor and Pensions outlining the principles and recommendations for an effective employee paid leave policy.

“We commend the bill’s sponsors, Representatives Mimi Walters (R-CA), Elise Stefanik (R-NY) and Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), for their leadership on this matter, and we thank the subcommittee for bringing this discussion to the forefront,” Schuman said. “The Council supports the approach addressed in [H.R. 4219](#) for a uniform, voluntary federal option that is equitable for employers and employees alike.”

“The Council’s statement sets forth the four essential characteristics of a national paid leave policy. Such a policy must be practical, voluntary, uniform and flexible,” Schuman said. “We encourage Congress to continue working on this important issue so everyone can benefit from a federal solution.”

For more information, or to arrange an interview with 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.