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Council on health care repeal-and-replace: 'do no harm' **Employer-sponsored insurance represents strong foundation of American health coverage**

WASHINGTON, DC - "On behalf of hundreds of American companies and the 177 million Americans who receive health insurance coverage through an employer, the American Benefits Council urges Congress not to disrupt the vital health coverage upon which so many families depend for financial security and well-being," Council President James A. Klein said today.

On May 23, [the Council sent a letter to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch \(R-UT\)](#) outlining its prescriptions for preserving the employer-sponsored system as Congress debates legislation to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

"Any legislation to repeal, replace or reform the ACA must 'first, do no harm' to this extremely popular and successful system that covers the vast majority of Americans," Klein wrote. The letter goes on to urge Congress to:

- Address the underlying problems with high health care costs.
- Fully repeal the 40 percent "Cadillac Tax" on employer plans.
- Reject new proposals to tax employees' health benefits.
- Preserve ERISA's uniform standard for plan administration.
- Fully repeal the employer mandate and reduce employer reporting burdens.
- Expand the availability and flexibility of consumer-directed plan designs, such as HSAs.
- Maintain treatment of HIPAA excepted benefits.
- Stabilize the individual market, including reliable funding for the cost-sharing reduction subsidies.

- Continue to provide employer flexibility in designing wellness programs.
- Simplify the rules for electronic disclosure of benefits documents.
- Enact medical liability reform at the federal level.

“We applaud Chairman Hatch for his collaborative and thoughtful approach to health care reform,” Klein said. “Our comments make clear that we share the same goals as other stakeholders and lawmakers on both sides of the aisle: a thriving employer-sponsored system, a stable individual market for those without employer coverage and meaningful long-term reductions in health care costs.”

For more information, or to arrange an interview with Klein, contact Jason Hammersla, Council senior director 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.