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Council urges House committee: ‘think big’ in pursuing health reforms that strengthen employer system

Employer mandate relief, ‘Cadillac Tax’ repeal, HSA reforms a good start

WASHINGTON, D.C. — “Today’s markup is an opportunity for lawmakers to expand and strengthen employer-provided health coverage and we urge them to make the most of it,” Council president James A. Klein said today, with the House of Representatives Ways and Means Committee poised to consider a slate of health policy measures.

Among the bills under consideration is [H.R. 4616](#). It would provide retroactive relief from the Affordable Care Act’s (ACA) employer mandate from 2015 through 2018 and delay for one additional year (until 2023) the 40 percent “Cadillac Tax” on employer-sponsored health coverage. “We applaud the aims of H.R. 4616 and support its passage,” Klein said.

“We encourage the committee to go even farther by fully repealing the ACA’s employer mandate and ‘Cadillac Tax,’ both of which strain employer resources and impose greater out-of-pocket costs on working families,” Klein said. Doing so would help meet [the health policy recommendations](#) the Council offered to congressional leaders in 2017.

Likewise, the Council supports many of the measures under consideration by the committee that would expand the availability and utility of health savings accounts (HSAs). “The Council has [strongly endorsed enactment of a comprehensive legislative package of HSA reforms](#),” Klein said.

“We applaud efforts to increase HSA contributions and expand HSA-eligible coverage for working seniors and spouses with health flexible spending accounts. Approval of

these measures would be a helpful first step toward increased take-up by employees and innovation by employers,” Klein said.

“Opportunities to make lasting, bipartisan health reforms are rare. Expanding use of HSAs is another area where Congress can ‘think big’ and further strengthen employer-sponsored health coverage, specifically by providing meaningful HSA-eligible coverage to individuals with chronic conditions, users of telehealth services and patients at on-site and near-site health clinics.”

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.