



October 16, 2017  
NR 2017-20

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **PBGC pilot mediation project a welcome step toward better relations**

WASHINGTON, DC – “The pilot mediation project unveiled today by the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation (PBGC) is a welcome step toward better relations between the agency and its customers,” said Lynn Dudley, senior vice president, global retirement and compensation policy, for the American Benefits Council.

On October 16, the PBGC announced a new pilot program that will allow parties to resolve cases through mediation, with the assistance of a dispute resolution professional. The program will apply to the Termination Liability Collection and Early Warning programs.

“The Early Warning program, in particular, [has presented challenges to employers](#) because it has been applied so broadly and has [fostered adversarial relationships](#) between the PBGC and plan sponsors,” Dudley said.

“The development of this Pilot Mediation Project is an excellent signal that PBGC is listening to plan sponsors and being creative to improve its programs and its relationships with sponsors. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with PBGC to enhance this pilot project and strengthen the employer-provided pension system,” Dudley said.

“We appreciate the opportunity presented by this project and we believe it will improve relationships between the PBGC and its customers, which will in turn strengthen the employer-sponsored defined benefit pension system,” Dudley said.

For more information on retirement policy matters, or to arrange an interview with Dudley, contact Jason Hammersla, Council senior director of 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 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.*