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NEWS RELEASE

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Open MEP arrangements show real promise for improving retirement coverage

Council applauds bipartisan action to allow open MEP adoption

WASHINGTON, D.C. – “Expanding the availability of multiple employer plans (MEPs) is one of the easiest and most effective things Congress can do to improve retirement plan participation,” said Lynn Dudley, American Benefits Council senior vice president, global retirement and compensation policy, in conjunction with today’s roundtable hearing in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security.

As part of its public policy strategic plan, [A 2020 Vision: Flexibility and the Future of Employee Benefits](#), the Council recommended that lawmakers make two important changes to create “open” MEPs:

- Waive the requirement for a “nexus” among unrelated businesses to join a MEP.
- Eliminate the rule that one employer’s failure to meet the criteria necessary to maintain a tax-preferred retirement plan can result in potential disqualification of the plan and loss of tax benefits for the participants.

“We are gratified and encouraged that these proposals have garnered the support of [lawmakers on both sides of the aisle](#) as well as [President Obama](#),” Dudley said. “Since we know that individuals covered by employer based plans are much more likely to have retirement security, these lawmakers are wise to focus on employer-based plans as a means to expand retirement coverage.”

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For more information on retirement policy, or to schedule an interview with Dudley, please contact Jason Hammersla, senior director of communications, at jhammersla@abcstaff.org or by phone at 202-621-1982 (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.