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Council urges Trump Administration to minimize burdensome ACA employer reporting requirements

WASHINGTON, DC – “As we outlined in a letter sent to the White House today, we urge all appropriate executive branch agencies to minimize the burdensome Affordable Care Act (ACA) employer reporting provisions that impose significant costs and complexity on the employer-sponsored health coverage system,” American Benefits Council president James A. Klein said. “The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) can provide relief to employers without negatively impacting individual taxpayers. Such relief could be applied swiftly and immediately.”

The Council’s letter to the Trump Administration suggests interim solutions in light of anticipated legislation to “repeal and replace” the ACA. The Council urges Congress to either fully repeal the employer mandate and employer reporting requirements, or reduce the associated penalties for an employer’s failure to comply down to zero. “Simply put, in the absence of the ACA framework, there is no reason to retain complex and costly requirements that are specifically designed to implement that law,” wrote Klein.

The ACA required employers to report extensive health plan information to participants and the IRS beginning in 2016. This information is needed to help implement the individual and employer mandates.

The letter to the Administration is in accordance with the Council’s ongoing goal of creating a “least burdensome compliance” standard as outlined in our public policy strategic plan, A 2020 Vision: Flexibility and the Future of Employee Benefits.
For more information on employee benefits policy matters, 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.