The Latest: The American Health Care Act

Tuesday, March 14, 2-3 p.m. ET

The American Benefits Council will host a webinar on Tuesday, March 14, at 2 p.m. Eastern Time, to discuss the latest news and developments regarding efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Katy Spangler, senior vice president, health policy, and Kathryn Wilber, senior counsel, health policy, will lead this webinar on the ACA repeal-and-replace legislation, the American Health Care Act (AHCA), released on March 6. The webinar will cover:

- The bill’s provisions
- Prospects for the bill’s enactment
- The bill’s impact on employers

We will solicit feedback and take questions from webinar participants throughout the session. Members are encouraged to submit questions for the webinar in advance.

“The Latest” is a new webinar series with up-to-the-minute information and analysis on matters affecting health and retirement benefits in order to keep you updated on fast-breaking legislative and regulatory developments during this period of feverish policy debate and discussion.

A recording of this session will be sent to all registrants. Even if you will not be able to attend in person, please register to receive a digital playback of the webinar automatically.

NOTE: Participation in Council webinars may be used toward continuing education/renewal requirements for many professional accreditation programs, but only by means of self-certification. Descriptions of past programs are available by clicking here. Please retain your registration confirmation for your verification records.

Background:

Draft text of an Affordable Care Act (ACA) “repeal-and-replace” bill, titled the American Health Care Act (AHCA), was released to the public on March 6, revealing a legislative strategy that delays taxes on employer-sponsored health benefits.

The AHCA – unveiled in two parts by the U.S. House of Representatives Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce committees – delays the 40 percent “Cadillac Tax” on employer-sponsored health plans until 2025 while avoiding new limits on the employee tax exclusion. This revenue would be used to provide a series of tax credits to low-income Americans for the purchase of coverage. The AHCA also strips away other key provisions of the ACA – including “zeroing out” the employer and individual mandate penalties – and expands health savings accounts.
Section-by-section summaries are available for both the Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce sections of the bill, and a two-page summary of the whole measure has also been released.

For the Council’s initial analysis on the bill, especially as it affects health tax policy, ACA employer and individual mandates, and health savings accounts, please see the March 7 Benefits Byte.

The committees of jurisdiction are considering the legislation in mark-up sessions on March 8, after which the budget committee will be tasked with combining the two bills into a single measure. The bill is then expected to receive consideration on the House floor, after which the Senate will act. It appears the goal is for the bill to pass both the House and Senate before the April 7 recess.

The Council will use this next generation of health care reform as an opportunity to continue to draw upon the health reform proposals included in two previous reports: Condition Critical: Ten Prescriptions for Reforming Health Care Quality, Cost and Coverage and A 2020 Vision: Flexibility and the Future of Employee Benefits.

For questions related to registration – If you have colleagues at your organization who would like to participate in this session, but do not regularly receive Council materials, please contact Deanna Johnson, director, membership, or Sondra Williams, manager, member and staff engagement, at (202) 289-6700.