



## AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL

# NEWS RELEASE

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## American Benefits Council calls for ‘bold action’ on drug pricing, transparency

*Employers ‘not willing to write a blank check for prescription drugs’*

WASHINGTON, DC – “As the largest purchaser of prescription drugs in the United States, employers are deeply concerned about prescription drug costs,” the American Benefits Council wrote in [a letter to congressional leaders today](#). “Employers are not willing to write a blank check for prescription drugs, nor are they willing to accept the absence of appropriate price – and cost – transparency.”

The Council’s letter offers strong support for the goal of lowering prescription drug costs, which remain a significant driver of employer plan expenses, and applauds bipartisan, bicameral efforts to address the problem. The Council calls for a collaborative effort among Congress, the executive branch and stakeholders to lower drug costs and ensure continued access to clinically effective — and cost-effective — pharmaceutical drug therapies without compromising employer-sponsored coverage.

The letter includes an appendix offering extensive, specific comments and recommendations regarding components of pending legislative proposals including those that address:

- Drug price negotiation programs, as included in Title I of the House-passed Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act (H.R. 3).
- Proposed inflation rebates that apply only to Medicare.
- Price transparency throughout the pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution system.
- Redesign of Medicare Part D.
- Measures to increase competition and promote the availability of generic drugs.
- Passage of the bipartisan Chronic Disease Management Act (S. 1948/H.R. 3709).

“The status quo is unsustainable,” the Council’s letter concludes. “Comprehensive reforms are needed to change the incentives that lead to higher list prices, increase competition among all

the players in the pharmaceutical drug space and bring greater transparency to drug pricing. There is common ground to be found on meaningful prescription drug reform legislation. We look forward to working with Congress and the executive branch to bring the voice of employer plan sponsors to this all-important effort.”

For more information on the Council’s health policy agenda, or to arrange an interview with the Council’s health policy team, contact Jason Hammersla, Council vice president, 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 Council is a public policy organization whose members include over 220 of the world’s largest corporations, as ranked by Fortune and Forbes. Collectively, the Council’s members either directly sponsor or administer health and retirement benefits for virtually all Americans covered by employer-sponsored plans.*