



AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL

November 17, 2015

The Honorable Mark Kirk
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Gary Peters
United States Senate
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Stephen Fincher
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Alma Adams
United States House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Representatives Fincher, Adams, Kirk and Gary:

I am writing on behalf of the American Benefits Council (Council) to commend your leadership in reestablishing the Congressional Income Protection Caucus. The Council is a public policy organization representing principally major employers as well as organizations that assist employers of all sizes in providing benefits to employees. Collectively, the Council's members either sponsor directly or provide services to retirement and health plans that cover many millions of Americans.

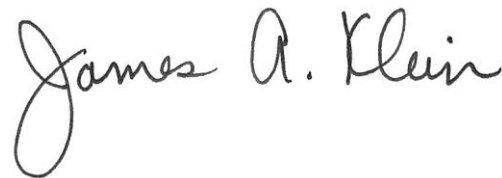
All too often employees underestimate the potential risk of losing their ability to earn income either temporarily or permanently. The Social Security Administration estimates that more than one in four of today's 20 year olds will become disabled before age 67. Losing the ability to earn income can be devastating for families, draining savings, forcing reliance on credit and reducing the ability to accumulate savings for retirement and other future needs. Growing longevity intensifies the impact of lack of income protection. Failure to adequately prepare for the risk of disability also places enormous pressure on governmental systems making the challenges they already face more difficult.

A key theme of the Council's strategic plan, [A 2020 Vision: Flexibility and the Future of Employee Benefits](#), is that the purpose of employer-sponsored benefits should be to help workers and their families achieve health and financial well-being. One very valuable means to do so is disability coverage through a plan voluntarily offered by an

employer. Highlighting this resource will encourage employers to sponsor, and employees to take advantage of, these important programs.

The Congressional Income Protection Caucus provides a real opportunity to enhance the personal financial security of Americans by facilitating the discussion regarding being prepared for financial risk through disability coverage. The bipartisanship of the caucus is noteworthy and helps support a national conversation on this topic. We commend your leadership, and that of your colleagues, in raising awareness of the importance of disability income protection and in helping Americans engage in the discussion about why and how they should take steps to protect income for themselves and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James A. Klein". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

James A. Klein
President