



AMERICAN BENEFITS  
COUNCIL

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**For additional information:**

Jason Hammersla  
202-289-6700

# American Benefits Council statement on health care costs, prescription drugs

WASHINGTON, DC – American Benefits Council President James A. Klein issued the following statement today in light of the president’s reference to health care costs – including prescription drug costs – in his [State of the Union address](#).

“We are pleased that the president raised the issue of health care costs in his address. Employers, whose health plans cover more than 181 million Americans, are often the first line of defense against rising health care costs for working families. It is therefore crucial that policy initiatives to lower these costs, including prescription drug prices, also consider the private, large group market. As we noted in [our comments on the Department of Health and Human Services’ prescription drug blueprint last year](#), employers have sought to implement reasoned innovations and strategies designed to manage overall drug costs while still ensuring that their employees and the employees’ dependents have broad access to needed drugs and services. We strongly support increased drug price transparency that leads to lower drug costs and better value, as well as other reforms to lower out-of-pocket health care costs for consumers like [repeal of the 40 percent “Cadillac Tax” on employer plans](#) and [modernization of health savings accounts](#).”

For more information on health policy matters, or to arrange an interview with Klein or Ilyse Schuman, senior vice president, health policy, 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 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.*