

Alliance to Fight for Health Care

For Immediate Release

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Workers Need More Help to Protect Their Health Care Coverage...and Keep it Affordable

Alliance to Fight for Health Care Statement on the CARES Act

Washington, D.C. — The [Alliance to Fight for Health Care](#), a broad stakeholder coalition working to support families with employer-provided health care coverage during this global health care and economic crisis, issued the following statement:

“We applaud the bipartisan congressional efforts to address unprecedented challenges facing our health care system and economy,” said James A. Klein, president of the American Benefits Council. “The CARES Act agreement takes important steps to help employers continue health care coverage to workers at this critical time. Specifically, it provides small business loans to help employers continue offering health care coverage to employees, delays employer payroll taxes, and provides an employee retention credit. The bill enables employers who must furlough employees to continue health coverage without limiting the employees’ ability to access unemployment compensation.”

“With skyrocketing unemployment, we urge Congress to take additional critical steps in the next relief package, including creating a funding mechanism for COBRA premiums for workers who lose their job-based health care coverage and expanding support for large employers to continue offering health insurance,” Klein continued. “On behalf of the 178 million Americans who rely on employer-provided health coverage, we will continue working with Congress and key stakeholders to fight for the health care coverage they need in this time of crisis.”

Background.

The [Alliance to Fight for Health Care](#) [launched](#) on March 21, 2020, issued [policy priorities](#), and [urged Congress](#) to help workers keep their coverage amid this time of crisis. It is comprised of the same diverse coalition, known as the Alliance to Fight the 40, that led the successful effort to repeal the 40% "Cadillac Tax" on health plans.

Employer-sponsored coverage, providing certainty to 178 million Americans, must be protected amid mounting health and economic hardships due to COVID-19. This global pandemic is putting unprecedented strain on our health care system and we must come together to protect access to affordable health care while reducing stress on our public health infrastructure. This means supporting employers in continuing to provide coverage to workers, including those who are newly furloughed or covered through COBRA due to unemployment or reduced hours. The Alliance is responding with a unified voice, advancing meaningful policy solutions to protect health coverage through the duration of the crisis.

The [Alliance to Fight for Health Care](#) is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, local governments, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-provided health coverage – and we continue our work through an enhanced voice as a COVID-19 Response Team. The Alliance serves as a COVID-19 Response Team to ensure that employer-provided coverage remains an effective and affordable option for working Americans and their families, especially during times of global health and economic crisis.



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