



For Immediate Release
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Contact: Tara Bradshaw | 202-441-8255

New Version of Stimulus Bill Must Include Provisions Allowing Workers to Keep Their Health Coverage

Washington D.C. — The COVID relief and economic stimulus bill released by House of Representative Democrats lacks one of the most effective tools for allowing American families to keep the employer-sponsored coverage they rely upon.

While the **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** appreciates the provisions that will make it easier for uninsured families to obtain health coverage in the insurance exchanges, we are very disappointed that the legislation no longer contains the COBRA funding provision that had been included in the previous HEROES Act that passed the House in May. Temporary COBRA funding would help people stay on their employer-provided health insurance if they have lost their jobs or been furloughed due to COVID-19.

“We are in a health care crisis, yet millions are losing the one thing they need most right now: their health insurance,” said D. Taylor, International President of **UNITE HERE**. “We are disappointed that Speaker Pelosi dropped from her latest COVID relief bill a provision to provide 100% emergency coverage of health care premiums to help workers keep their job-based health insurance until they are able to return to work and assume their coverage once again. It is a desperate situation out here. No job, no health care, no savings. Congress needs to pass COBRA funding now.”

“While it is good to enable workers, who lose health coverage to more readily obtain it in the insurance exchanges, the better approach is to prevent them from losing their employer-provided coverage in the first place. Congress has provided COBRA funding to workers in the past and the current economic situation makes it essential that Congress do so again,” said James A. Klein, president, **American Benefits Council**.

Families need the peace of mind that they can depend on their health care coverage—even if they have lost their job.

- [Polling](#) shows **90% of voters support Congress taking immediate action to help Americans maintain coverage and continuity of care if they lose their job.**
- A recent [study](#) shows those individuals enrolling in the Affordable Care Act Coverage cannot afford to make their first premium payment.
- Congress passed temporary COBRA subsidy relief to help families during the Great Recession of 2008-2009. Facing historic coverage losses, Congress must act.

It's time for Congress to help Americans keep their coverage when they need it the most.

*The **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** is a broad-based coalition comprised of businesses, patient advocates, employer organizations, unions, health care companies, consumer groups and other stakeholders that support employer-provided health coverage. The Alliance is committed to ensuring 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. The coalition (previously working as the **Alliance to Fight the 40**), led the successful effort to repeal the so-called 40% “Cadillac Tax” on health care coverage.*

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