

Alliance to Fight for Health Care

February 10, 2021
For Immediate Release
Contact: Tara Bradshaw
202-441-8255

Alliance to Fight for Health Care Joins Stakeholder Letter Urging Congress to Help Americans Keep their Health Insurance Coverage

Washington, DC— Today nearly 90 companies and organizations including public- and private-sector employers, nonprofits, chambers of commerce, patient advocacy groups, insurers, hospitals, brokers, church plans, unions, and multinational companies signed a letter to congressional leaders to include COBRA funding in the next COVID-19 relief package. This provision is essential to help Americans who have lost their jobs or been furloughed to keep their employment-based health insurance coverage.

The letter, signed by 89 stakeholders including the **Alliance to Fight for Health Care**, reminds Congress that “by supporting robust COBRA continuation coverage, including continuation coverage for churches and faith-based organizations, we can help families keep their current doctors, treatment plans and health coverage during this crisis.”

With Congress releasing COVID-19 relief legislation on February 8, the **Alliance to Fight for Health Care** applauds Congress for including a provision that expands COBRA for workers facing coverage loss during the pandemic. The provision does not extend coverage to church employees who have faced significant challenges due to shutdowns and gathering limits. The Alliance appreciates the effort to support this important coverage and looks forward to working with Congress to expand the provision.

“Until we are safe from the public health and economic threats of COVID-19, it’s time to give Americans the peace of mind that comes with maintaining affordable health insurance,” the letter says. “Let’s work together to keep families healthy and secure by supporting temporary COBRA continuation health coverage.”

Text of the letter and full list of signers:

February 9, 2021

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy:

We ask you to help recently unemployed or furloughed Americans affected by the pandemic keep their employment-based health coverage while we weather this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. As you did in 2009 and as President Biden recommended in his “American Rescue Plan,” you can ensure Americans have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage by including funding for temporary COBRA continuation coverage in the next COVID relief package. The undersigned stakeholders represent employers, labor, consumer groups, faith-based organizations, patient groups, health care providers and others who stand ready to work with you to achieve this shared goal.

Providing families with the security of health coverage should be a priority during the pandemic. While we hope full economic recovery is near, many individuals are still facing reduced hours, lay-offs and furloughs that may affect their ability to pay for the health coverage they trust and want to keep. By supporting robust COBRA continuation coverage, including continuation coverage for

churches and faith-based organizations, we can help families keep their current doctors, treatment plans and health coverage during this crisis. Everyone in the health care system benefits from extended employment-based health coverage, from patients to providers, especially as the system faces unprecedented strain.

Supporting continuation coverage is a bipartisan idea that has been embraced by members on both sides of the aisle. We all want to get America's economy thriving and back to work and school. Until we are safe from the public health and economic threats of COVID-19, it's time to give Americans the peace of mind that comes with maintaining affordable health insurance.

Let's work together to keep families healthy and secure by supporting temporary COBRA continuation health coverage.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alliance to Fight for Health Care

Alternative Benefit Concepts

American Benefits Council

American Conference of Cantors

American Federation of Teachers

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

ASAE

Associated General Contractors

Association of American Medical Colleges

Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

The Association of Union Constructors

Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Miller's International Union

Balanced Rock Insurance Agency, Inc.

Blasingame Insurance

Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church USA

Brighthouse Financial

California Schools VEBA

CancerCare

Central Conference of American Rabbis

Children's Hospital Association

Christian Churches Pension Plan

Church Alliance

Church of God Benefits Board, Inc.

Church Pension Group

Coleman County Telephone Cooperative

Communications Workers of America

Council for Affordable Health Coverage

The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers

CVSHealth

Drywall & Interior Systems Contractors Association of NJ

Employers Council on Flexible Compensation

Federation of American Hospitals

Florida Alliance for Retired Americans

Health Action Council

Healthcare Leadership Council

HealthEquity, Inc.

Houston Business Coalition on Health

IKEA Purchasing Services (US) Inc.

Indiana Chamber of Commerce

International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)

International Brotherhood of Teamsters

International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
Kaiser Permanente
Midwest Business Group on Health
Minnesota Assoc of Health Underwriters
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Association of Dental Plans
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)
National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans
National Education Association
National Electrical Contractors Association
Nevada State Association of Health Underwriters
O.C.A.
Ohio Society of Association Executives
PayFlex Systems USA, Inc.
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Pension Fund of the Christian Church
Penske Transportation Services
Piper Jordan
Portico Benefit Services | A ministry of the ELCA
Princeton HR Solutions, LLC
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Purchaser Business Group on Health
Quest Diagnostics
Reform Pension Board
Sage Benefit Advisors
Sazerac
Scheffler Electric Corp.
Signatory Wall & Ceiling Contractors Alliance
SMART
Society of Professional Benefit Administrators
Sperry Rail, Inc.
Toyota of Irving
Union for Reform Judaism
UNITE HERE
United Brotherhood of Carpenters
United States of Care
United Steelworkers
Veritiv Corporation
WAHU - Washington Association of Health Underwriters
Watkins Group
WEX, Inc.
White Pine Chamber of Commerce
White Pine Horse Races Association
Willis Towers Watson

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*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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