



Health Care:

Keeping Americans Healthy and Productive; Unleashing Innovation

As leaders in the employer-sponsored health care system that provides quality benefits to approximately 181 million Americans, manufacturers go to great lengths to provide robust health insurance offerings to employees. Yet, both large and small manufacturers continue to cite rising health care expenses as one of their top business concerns. As health care inflation continues to increase, manufacturers across the nation are faced with the unending challenge of providing quality care for employees while managing rapidly rising health costs.

Approximately 98% of NAM member companies offer health benefits to maintain a healthy workforce and attract and retain talent—and fundamentally because they believe it is the right thing to do for their employees. But for too many manufacturers, rising costs and uncertainty in the health care system serve as a drag on business and threaten the care they are able to offer. Many manufacturers are leading innovative health benefit initiatives to provide quality care to better meet their employees' needs while also reducing growing health benefits costs. However, manufacturers need certainty to negotiate affordable, best-in-class health plans for their employees.

Similarly, manufacturers of lifesaving health care products need free enterprise principles to guide health care policy decisions to encourage and protect the health care cures and solutions of tomorrow.

No doubt, efficiencies and improvements to our health care system are needed. As such, relying on market-based incentives and solutions to remove regulatory barriers and reduce costs, improve efficiency and increase access to quality, affordable health care are all essential aspects of a reformed and improved health care system of the future.

“ Manufacturers across America are continually developing and implementing innovative health care benefits in order to deliver the highest quality care to our employees. Meanwhile, health care costs continue to climb, remaining a major headwind for manufacturers large and small. Policymakers need to remove barriers such as onerous health care tax burdens that decrease competitiveness and hinder manufacturers' ability to provide employees the best care possible.”

—Chuck Wetherington, President, BTE Technologies, LLC.



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A Health Care Agenda for the Future Must:

- Decrease costs. Fees, taxes, administrative paperwork, reporting requirements, benefit mandates and other policies stifle innovation and make providing health coverage to employees unnecessarily expensive for manufacturers.
- Encourage flexibility. Expanding coverage options and enabling innovative models of care are essential for manufacturers' efforts to maintain a healthy workforce and provide competitive benefits.
- Apply free enterprise principles to all aspects of health care policy reform. Such principles include, but are not limited to, protecting IP, encouraging transparency, opposing price control-oriented solutions and avoiding costly Medicare for All.
- Take on the challenge of reforming our medical liability system.

Actions for Leaders to Take:

- ✓ Maintain tax-exempt status of employee health benefits to avoid higher premiums for workers and families.
- ✓ Enact policies that allow employers to use innovative approaches to providing coverage for their employees, such as wellness programs, association health plans and direct primary care.
- ✓ Support reforms that move from a fee-for-service or volume-based system to a value-based system.
- ✓ Reduce patient out-of-pocket costs by addressing "surprise billing" and improving health savings accounts.
- ✓ Reduce ACA-mandated reporting requirements, which have added costly administrative burdens.