



AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL

COMMITTEES, TASK FORCES AND WORKING GROUPS

All members can help shape Council legislative and regulatory initiatives by participating in committees, task forces, and working groups that provide recommendations to the Policy Board of Directors. Avenues of involvement include:

RETIREMENT INCOME TASK FORCE

- Analyzes and develops recommendations on issues affecting defined benefit and defined contribution plans, and trends in retirement planning and design
- Develops recommendations and detailed technical comments for legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the employer-sponsored retirement system
- Analyzes and responds to retirement benefits policy issues considered by Congress and federal regulatory agencies including the departments of Labor and Treasury, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission
- Develops position papers on current and future policy issues
- Subgroups focused on: defined contribution plans, hybrid plans, defined benefit funding, asset investments, and nonqualified deferred and executive compensation

HEALTH AND WELFARE TASK FORCE

- Analyzes and develops Council positions on health policy issues encompassing all aspects of comprehensive health reform affecting employers. This includes: compliance planning, wellness and quality initiatives, electronic patient records and electronic delivery of benefits communications, consumer-directed health care programs, and taxation of health benefits
- Develops and reviews comment letters filed with the departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury

PAID LEAVE TASK FORCE

- Develops solutions providing flexibility for large plan sponsors affected by the proliferation of state- and local-level paid leave mandates
- Monitors growing public policy activity, assesses and responds to proposals, develops and advocates for workable alternatives including a voluntary federal standard to relieve employers from compliance with state and local laws

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LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- Addresses legal issues affecting plan sponsors and obtains perspectives from member company in-house counsel on important employee benefits cases
- Provides resources to retirement and health policy task forces on the legal implications of benefits policy issues
- Provides resources to Council staff on *amicus* brief requests

ACTUARIAL COMMITTEE

- Addresses actuarial issues affecting plan sponsors and obtains perspectives from member company in-house actuaries on important employee benefits legislation and regulations
- Provides resources to retirement and health policy task forces on the actuarial implications of benefits policy issues

GLOBAL BENEFITS COMMITTEE

- Forum in which to share information on benefits design and practices affecting non-U.S. based employees
- Resource for non-U.S. based companies operating in the United States
- Updates members on developments from, and facilitates dialogue with, international organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the International Employee Benefits Association (IEBA)

WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES

- Updates member organizations' representatives in Washington, D.C., on current benefit policy issues, legislation, regulations and legal cases
- Provides opportunities for Washington Representatives to meet with key congressional staff and executive branch officials at monthly meetings
- Serves as a conduit for organizing congressional and executive branch visits, and Political Action Committee fundraising activities

BENEFIT LEADERS' ROUNDTABLES

- Informal groups of senior-level benefit leaders representing major plan sponsors either from specific industries or particular geographic areas across the country
- Half-day meetings allow participants to network and discuss benefit design, operation and communications challenges and strategies
- Participants receive a legislative and regulatory update and provide Council staff with direction on policy issues that require special attention due to the design or operation of group members' benefits plans