



AMERICAN BENEFITS  
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# NEWS RELEASE

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**EMBARGOED UNTIL 10 p.m.  
EASTERN TIME ON JANUARY 31, 2017**

*Nationwide poll reveals:*  
**Voters favor repeal of ‘Cadillac Tax’ by 2-to-1 margin,  
remain deeply skeptical about supposed benefits**

WASHINGTON, DC – “Right now, lawmakers are debating which parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to repeal,” American Benefits Council president James A. Klein said today. “A new nationwide poll makes clear that the so-called ‘Cadillac Tax’ should be at the top of that list.”

The “Cadillac Tax,” enacted as part of the ACA, is a 40 percent tax on the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage that exceeds certain dollar thresholds starting in 2020. “Anyone who receives health coverage through an employer should be very concerned about this tax, and the data bear that out,” Klein said.

Public Opinion Strategies, a widely respected public polling firm, conducted a nationwide online survey of 600 registered voters from January 4-6, 2017. These findings indicate that voter support for repeal of the “Cadillac Tax” far outweighs the desire to implement it.

[A PowerPoint slide deck with the full results](#) is now available, **embargoed until 10 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, January 31.** [An infographic](#) based on the data, prepared by [the Alliance to Fight the 40](#) is also now available. Key findings include:

1. **When given arguments to keep or repeal the “Cadillac Tax”, voters favored repeal by a 2-to-1 margin, regardless of political persuasion.** Voters agree the tax will compel employers to drop or reduce health benefits and they are skeptical that employers will raise their workers’ taxable wages to make up for these reductions. (Slide 12)

2. **Bipartisan opposition to the “Cadillac Tax” increases as people learn more about it.** Once informed about the tax, support for repeal rose to half of the surveyed population – including nearly two-thirds of Republicans and more than half of Independents – while support for implementation reached only 20 percent. (Slide 16)
3. **Repealing the ACA without also repealing the “Cadillac Tax” would be unacceptable for two-thirds of the respondents.** (Slides 19 & 20)
4. **Voters are more likely to support their representatives’ re-election if he/she voted to repeal the “Cadillac Tax.”** Perhaps most bracing for lawmakers themselves, voters are more likely to vote for their representative if they support the repeal of the “Cadillac Tax,” no matter what party holds the seat. (Slide 10)
5. **In voters’ minds, the best potential outcomes of the “Cadillac Tax” are the least likely to happen.** Voters were generally dubious of assumptions that the “Cadillac Tax” would lead to reduced costs, higher wages and expanded coverage; but they expressed concern that it would lead to less employer coverage, fewer choices and higher out-of-pocket costs. (Slide 15)

“Support for repeal of the ‘Cadillac Tax’ is not only dominant among voters, it is as bipartisan in Congress as it is among the general public – 90 Senators voted for permanent repeal last Congress and 311 members of the House of Representatives cosponsored legislation to repeal the tax,” Klein said.

“Taxing health benefits doesn’t save money, it simply shifts costs to working families,” Klein concluded. “On the strength of this data and the broad support from lawmakers, we urge the immediate and permanent repeal of the ‘Cadillac Tax’ at the first opportunity.”

For more information on employee benefits policy matters, or to arrange an interview with Klein, contact Jason Hammersla, Council senior director of communications, at [jhammersla@abcstaff.org](mailto:jhammersla@abcstaff.org) or by phone at 202-289-6700 (office) or (202) 422-4652 (cell).

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*The American Benefits Council is the national trade association for companies concerned about federal legislation and regulations affecting all aspects of the employee benefits system. The Council’s members represent the entire spectrum of the private employee benefits community and either sponsor directly or administer retirement and health plans covering more than 100 million Americans.*