



Comprehensive Healthcare Reform

Desired Action

The WMMA supports repealing and replacing the entire Affordable Care Act with a program that balances insuring Americans without imposing undue financial burden on WMMA's small business members. With premiums set to rise by double digits next year, now is the time to act.

Background

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), a.k.a. Obamacare, was signed into law on March 23, 2010. Since it was enacted, skyrocketing premiums have put business owners, especially small business owners, in a precarious financial position. The ACA forces small businesses to absorb these greatly increased expenses, which hurts their ability to grow by making it much more costly to hire new employees or increase the wages of current employees. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act eliminated the Obamacare individual mandate, which is a positive step for WMMA small business members. However, significant challenges remain for the ensuring that the employees that work for WMMA's small business members obtain appropriate healthcare plans.

Recent Activity

On May 4, 2017, the House of Representatives voted to pass the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA) by a vote of 217–213. The legislation would have partially repealed the dismantled the ACA and replaced it with a new plan that would be less burdensome to small businesses and offer consumers a wider selection of health care insurance options. In June, Republicans released the first discussion draft for an amendment to the House bill, named the Better Care Reconciliation Act of 2017. After several failed amendments through July, August and September, including the "Skinny Repeal" offered by Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY) and a repeal effort that repealed Obamacare and replaced it with a block grant system, the bill has not advanced out of the Senate.

In October 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order #13813 – Promoting Healthcare Choice and Competition, which directed federal agencies to modify how the ACA is implemented. The order included a directive to federal agencies to end rules forbidding employers from using health reimbursement arrangements (HRAs) to pay individual insurance premiums. Also, Trump announced that was ending subsidies to health insurance companies that sell to low-income consumers through the state health insurance marketplaces. In May 2018, the Congressional Budget Office issued a report projecting that Obamacare silver plan will rise 15 percent in 2019, and that five million more people will be uninsured in 2027.

About the WMMA

Founded in 1899, the Wood Machinery Manufacturers of America (WMMA) is a professional trade association composed of more than 230 North American manufacturers of woodworking equipment, cutting tools and supplies whose purpose is to promote the interests of its members serving the woodworking industry. Members' products are used in the production of furniture, cabinets, millwork and other wood products. Many members also serve the plastics, stone and non-ferrous metals markets. WMMA members' equipment is sold worldwide. Learn more about the WMMA at www.WMMA.org.