



For Immediate Release

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Alliance to Fight the 40 Statement on President Obama's State of the Union Address

Washington, D.C. -- The Alliance to Fight the 40, a broad-based coalition seeking to repeal the 40 percent tax on employee health benefits, issued the following statement in response to President Barack Obama's State of the Union address:

"The theme of the President's address was 'unity,' so it is a shame he did not join over 300 bipartisan members of the House and Senate in calling for the repeal of the Cadillac tax on expensive health plans," said James A. Klein, president of American Benefits Council, a member of the Alliance to Fight the 40. "President Obama can still assert pride in his signature legislative achievement without defending every provision. The Affordable Care Act was advocated as building on employer-sponsored health coverage. Unless the Cadillac tax is repealed, it will erode the system that provides coverage to over 175 million Americans."

"We urge the President to consider the detrimental impact the Cadillac Tax will have on those living with chronic illnesses, including patients with primary immunodeficiency diseases, who rely on affordable health care plans from their employers," said Marcia Boyle, President and Founder of the Immune Deficiency Foundation, a member of the Alliance to Fight the 40. "The tax will encourage employers to reduce insurance coverage and shift more costs to patients. As a result, patients' access to critical treatment options will be more limited and can mean the difference between life and death."

The Alliance to Fight the 40 is a broad-based coalition comprised of public and private sector employer organizations, consumer groups, patient advocates, unions, health care companies, businesses and other stakeholders that support employer-sponsored health coverage. This coverage is the backbone of our health care system and protects over 175 million Americans across the United States. The Alliance seeks to repeal the 40 percent tax on employee health benefits to ensure that employer-sponsored coverage remains an effective and affordable option for working Americans and their families.

For more information on the 40% Tax on Health Benefits, visit our website at www.fightthe40.com or follow us on Twitter @Fightthe40.

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