



2020 Spring Policy Conference Panels

Presidential Candidate Plans: How They Would Change Employee Benefits

With more than 50 percent of the presidential primaries completed by the start of the policy conference, it is the perfect time to take a close look at the leading candidates' benefit plans. Our panel of experts will break down each candidate's strategy towards improving health care access and financial wellness. Which plans could realistically be implemented? How much will it cost? And, how would employer-sponsored benefits be affected?

Surprise Medical Billing and Transparency: What Will a Resolution Mean for Employers?

With the ongoing debate in Congress on how to protect patients from surprise medical billing, this panel of insiders will look at the solutions currently being debated, including benchmarking payments, mandatory arbitration, and other opportunities. We will also discuss other legislative health policy proposals impacting employers that could be acted on this year.

Employee Engagement: New Government Requirements and Delivery Methods

Plan sponsors have their hands full with new federal government requirements on what information to share with beneficiaries of health and retirement plans. Health care cost and quality information is critical for employees to make informed decisions. These mandates add to the complexity of communicating with employees to promote their health and financial wellbeing. At the same time, the federal government is making it easier for plan sponsors to use electronic means to communicate. How can plan sponsors integrate and leverage the new disclosure, transparency, and e-delivery rules? What new guidance is needed from regulators?

State Legislators and Regulators Discuss Paid Leave and Other Employer Mandates

Navigating and complying with different state mandate requirements can be incredibly complex for large employers. Programs like paid leave rarely have clear-cut, comprehensive processes in place to guide employers' compliance efforts. State legislators, regulators, and other experts will pull back the curtain to reveal the reasoning behind how these state programs are shaped, the best compliance practices for employers, and the interplay that exists among various state programs for large employers operating in multiple states nationwide.

ERIC's Study Reveals How Biosimilars Can Help Cut Costs

Lead researchers from Johns Hopkins University, along with experts from The Segal Group and Fidelity Investments, will discuss ERIC's groundbreaking research on biosimilar medications (essentially the generic alternative to biologics). ERIC's research analyzes biosimilar usage of 12 large employers and the cost savings opportunities they can realize. The panel will also focus on ways that employers can use benefit design to increase adoption of biosimilar medications, and public policies that federal and state legislators can embrace to accelerate the availability and utilization of biosimilars.

Cybersecurity and Plan Benefits

Plans sponsors spend significant time and energy ensuring that retirement and health care plans provide optimal benefits to their participants. Because the theft of funds or information through hacking or identity theft could undermine these efforts, cybersecurity is becoming as important as physical security. This panel will consider the current practices of plan sponsors, current rules and regulations, and what policy changes are needed.

The Multiemployer Pension Crisis and Why You Should Care

Employers and participants in multiemployer pension plans have been the focus of the pension crisis. But, as the predicament continues without a resolution, many more will be negatively impacted. This panel will deliberate the financial threat to the PBGC, the reputational threat to the employer-provided system, and the potentially adverse economic impact on the economy. The panel will also tackle policies being discussed in Congress that could help mitigate the crisis.

The SECURE Act and Beyond

After several years of coming close, the provisions in the SECURE Act have finally passed! Now as we turn to the implementation stage, we will discuss effective dates, needed regulatory guidance, and the next steps in future legislation. In addition, we will examine new ideas and proposals to advance retirement security, financial wellness, and educational support for employees.