

HSA COUNCIL

A Partnership of the American Bankers Association and its insurance affiliate, the American Bankers Insurance Association

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July 16, 2009

The Honorable Jim Matheson
The Honorable Phil Gingrey
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Matheson and Gingrey:

The HSA Council strongly supports your amendment defining Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) as qualified health benefit plans available to be offered through the proposed Health Insurance Exchange created under the America's Affordable Health Choices Act.

Your amendment supports many of the following health care reform goals:

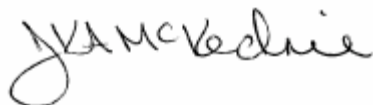
- i) reduce the number of uninsured Americans;
- ii) increase the use of preventive care;
- iii) reduce the overall health care utilization rate by about 20%; and,
- iv) encourage individual responsibility by providing Americans with control of their own health care decisions.

A recent American Academy of Actuaries study (May 2009) on Consumer Driven Healthcare (CDH), of which HSAs are considered the primary component, states:

“Generally, all of the studies indicated that cost savings did not result from avoidance of appropriate care and that necessary care was received in equal or greater degrees relative to traditional plans. All of the studies reviewed reported a significant increase in preventive services for CDH [consumer directed healthcare] participants.”

The HSA Council is strongly supportive of your amendment, commend you for offering it and will urge your colleagues, in the strongest possible terms, to vote for it when they have the opportunity.

Sincerely,



J. Kevin A. McKechnie
Staff Director
HSA Council