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March 17, 2010

Employers Oppose Any Changes to ERISA in Final Health Care Reform Legislation

Washington – The National Coalition on Benefits today reiterated its strong support for the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA). For more than thirty years, ERISA has provided the framework which has been a cornerstone of the employment-based healthcare system providing coverage for over 130 million Americans. Surveys consistently show that the vast majority of people with employer coverage are satisfied with it and want to keep it.

The Coalition, whose members employ and insure tens of millions of Americans, reiterated its longstanding opposition to any changes to ERISA in the final Health Care Reform bill now working its way through Congress.

A fundamental goal of health care reform must be to reduce health care costs and make coverage more affordable for all Americans. Preserving the ERISA framework is essential for reaching that goal. While employers have a variety of concerns with the proposals being discussed, the fundamental tenet of the employer-sponsored system is preserving the current uniform ERISA structure. Any last-minute deals that would erode the ERISA framework would threaten the ability of employers to provide health coverage to their workforce and result in millions of Americans not being able to keep the coverage that they have today.

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***National Coalition on Benefits** (www.coalitiononbenefits.org) is a coalition of associations and businesses of all sizes, sectors and regions formed to represent more than 170 million Americans who have health, retirement and other valuable benefits voluntarily provided by their employer under a nationally uniform framework.*