

ADVOCACY OVERVIEW

Our Key Issues

ISSUE	THREAT	PROGRESS
<p>Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) 199A Provision</p>	<p>The TCJA tax cuts are set to expire by the end of 2025, including the Section 199A deduction for pass-through entities. Without Section 199A, pass-through entities will face a significantly higher tax rate.</p>	<p>The Council is monitoring the upcoming TCJA renewal and preparing to fight to maintain tax cuts for broker members.</p>
<p>Employer-Sponsored Healthcare Tax Exclusion</p>	<p>If employer and employee-paid health insurance premiums are no longer exempt from federal income and payroll taxes, employers would struggle to fund their benefits programs and employee healthcare costs would increase, which would jeopardize the viability of the employer-sponsored insurance system.</p>	<p>As part of any tax discussions, The Council continues to work with Congress to reject any legislation that raises taxes on employer-provided healthcare.</p>
<p>Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) Transparency</p>	<p>While broad transparency rules were enacted in 2020 requiring PBMs and TPAs to disclose their compensation practices, they have yet to comply, leaving brokers and employers with little information to design cost-effective pharmacy benefits.</p>	<p>The Council worked closely with the Senate HELP Committee to pass legislation and worked with three committees in the House on similar language. We are actively lobbying both chambers.</p>
<p>Healthcare Pricing Transparency</p>	<p>Machine readable file data containing in-network negotiated charges for every medical service with every provider could uncover new ways to decrease plan costs and improve health outcomes. The structure and completeness of the files currently create barriers to accessibility.</p>	<p>The Council and other employer coalitions are pushing for codification of the Transparency in Coverage final rule along with specific ways to improve data usability.</p>
<p>Third-party Litigation Funding (TPLF)</p>	<p>Outside third-party groups provide money to a plaintiff in exchange for a percentage of the proceeds of a litigation settlement. As a result, this practice increases the cost to settle insurance claims.</p>	<p>The Council has begun to educate elected leaders on the consequences of third-party litigation funding and the challenges it poses to the insurance industry.</p>
<p>Cannabis Finance</p>	<p>While still illegal federally, 39 states and the District of Columbia have some form of legal cannabis market.</p>	<p>Legislation to provide a safe harbor for businesses operating in states where cannabis is legal has passed the House seven times but has yet to pass the Senate. The Council is a long-time supporter of this legislation and is working with coalition partners toward passage.</p>
<p>National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers (NARAB) Implementation</p>	<p>Creating a national standard for insurance licensure would reduce regulatory burdens on brokerages who do business in multiple states.</p>	<p>To avoid the unnecessary hurdles of requiring NRAB appointees to be confirmed by the Senate, The Council advocates for the responsibility of creating and enforcing licensure standards that will preempt state standards to be shifted to an existing federal agency.</p>