

The Honorable George W. Bush  
The Honorable Richard Cheney  
Bush Cheney Transition Office  
1616 Anderson Road  
McLean, VA 22102

**RE: Position Papers on Health and Retirement Policy**

Dear President-elect Bush and Vice President-elect Cheney:

America's private employer-based benefits system is recognized throughout the world because of the quality of the coverage it provides and its flexibility to adapt to the ever-changing needs of businesses and their workers – all on a purely voluntary basis. As explained in the enclosed position paper, your Administration will have an enormous opportunity to help strengthen this system for employers and employees alike. Your leadership will also ensure that the private benefits system can provide retirement and health plan coverage to a greater number of Americans.

Your Administration can build the proper foundation for this work through nominations and appointments you will soon make including: the Secretary of Labor; Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration; Secretary of the Treasury; Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Tax Policy; the Benefits Tax Counsel; Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Service; Executive Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation; Secretary of Health and Human Services; Administrator for the Health Care Financing Administration; and Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.

By shaping policy, legislation and regulation, you can strengthen the employer-sponsored benefits system through appropriate action (as detailed in our attached position paper) on: the President's budget proposal, the President's tax plan, Social Security and Medicare reform, Patients Bill of Rights, pension reform legislation, stock ownership policy, and the 2001 SAVER Summit.

We stand ready to assist you and members of your Administration on these important issues. The American Benefits Council (formerly APPWP — The Benefits Association) is the national trade association for companies concerned about federal legislation and regulations affecting all aspects of the employee benefits system. The Council's members represent the entire spectrum of the private employee benefits community and either sponsor directly or administer retirement and health plans covering more than 100 million Americans. Additional information about the Council and contacting our policy professionals is available on our website at <http://www.americanbenefitscouncil.org/>.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

James A. Klein  
President