

ALLIANCE TO FIGHT THE 40

Stop the 40% tax on health benefits

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THE CHURCH ALLIANCE JOINS FIGHT THE 40 EFFORT TO REPEAL THE “CADILLAC TAX”

Washington, D.C. – The Alliance to Fight the 40, a broad-based coalition seeking to repeal the 40% tax on employee health benefits, announced today that the Church Alliance has joined the group, bringing the Fight the 40 membership to 43 member organizations. The Church Alliance is a coalition of the chief executive officers of 37 church benefit programs that provide retirement and health benefits to more than 1 million clergy, lay workers, and their family members.

“Like the Church Alliance itself, the Alliance to Fight the 40 is well-known for its diverse membership and we welcome the unique perspective that they will bring to this crucial effort,” said James A. Klein, President of the American Benefits Council. “For the people who undertake vital work in our communities at modest wages, the increased personal costs associated with the ‘Cadillac Tax’ would represent a deeply unfortunate and devastating financial burden.”

“With all of our members potentially affected by the ‘Cadillac Tax,’ we look forward to working with Fight the 40 to repeal this onerous tax and protect the health benefit plans operated by churches, religious institutions and affiliated organizations,” said Barbara Boiegrain, Chair of the Church Alliance.

The “Cadillac Tax” is a 40% tax on the cost of employer-sponsored health coverage that exceeds certain benefit thresholds – initially, \$10,800 for self-only coverage and \$29,100 for family coverage in 2020. More than just premiums are counted when determining the “cost” of the plan. The cost of wellness programs, on-site clinics and other plan features designed to reduce plan expenses are also included, so that ultimately virtually everyone in an employer-sponsored plan, including clergy and religious leaders, will be affected.

In addition to the growing coalition of supporters that are part of the Alliance to Fight the 40, there is increased bipartisan momentum in Congress to repeal the tax. Legislation to repeal the 40% tax has garnered 309 cosponsors in the House of Representatives and last year 90 members of the Senate voted for permanent repeal.

[The Alliance to Fight the 40](http://www.fightthe40.com) is a broad-based coalition comprised of public and private sector employer organizations, patient advocates, businesses, unions, and other stakeholders that support employer-sponsored health coverage. This coverage is the backbone of our health care system and protects over 175 million Americans across the United States. The Alliance seeks to repeal the 40% tax on employee health benefits to ensure that employer-sponsored coverage remains an effective and affordable option for working Americans and their families.

Website: www.fightthe40.com & Twitter: [@Fightthe40](https://twitter.com/Fightthe40)

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