



## *The benefits of membership—shaping policy initiatives*

The Council's Policy Board of Directors provides strategic policy direction to the staff. All members can help shape Council legislative and regulatory initiatives by participating in committees, task forces, and working groups that provide recommendations to the Board. Avenues of involvement include:

### **RETIREMENT INCOME TASK FORCE**

- Analyzes and develops recommendations on policy issues affecting defined benefit and defined contribution plans, Social Security, and trends in retirement planning and design.
- Develops recommendations and detailed technical comments for legislative and regulatory changes to strengthen the employer-sponsored retirement system.
- Analyzes and responds to retirement benefits policy issues considered by Congress and federal regulatory agencies including the U.S. Departments of Labor and Treasury, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation and the Securities and Exchange Commission.
- Develops comprehensive position papers on a variety of current and future retirement policy issues.

**The Retirement Income Task Force has several working groups that examine and develop Council policy positions on a range of issues. Active working groups include:**

- Hybrid Plans
- Defined Benefit Plan Funding Relief
- Defined Contribution Plan Savings
- Retirement Plan Investment Issues
- Nonqualified Deferred and Executive Compensation

### **HEALTH AND WELFARE TASK FORCE**

- Analyzes and develops Council positions on health policy issues encompassing all aspects of comprehensive health reform affecting employers. This includes: wellness and quality initiatives, consumer-directed health care programs, health information technology, taxation of health benefits, Medicare, and retiree health plans.
- Develops and reviews comment letters filed with the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Treasury to implement the provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and other federal laws.

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**The Health and Welfare Task Force has several working groups that examine and develop Council policy positions on a range of issues. Active working groups include:**

- Mental Health Parity
- Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA)
- Internal Appeals and External Review of Claims
- Miscellaneous PPACA Implementation Issues

#### **LEGAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

- Addresses legal issues affecting plan sponsors and keeps member company in-house counsel informed of important benefits cases.
- Provides resources to retirement and health policy task forces on the legal implications of benefits policy issues.
- Provides resources to Council staff on *amicus* brief requests.

#### **INTERNATIONAL BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

- Forum in which to share information on benefits design and practices affecting non-U.S. based employees.
- Resource for non-U.S. based companies operating in the United States
- Updates members on information and developments from, and facilitates dialogue with, international organizations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

#### **WASHINGTON REPRESENTATIVES**

- Updates member organizations' representatives in Washington, D.C., on current benefit policy issues, legislation, regulations and legal cases.
- Provides opportunities for Washington Representatives to meet with key Congressional staff and executive branch officials at monthly meetings.
- Serves as a conduit for organizing Congressional and Executive branch visits, and Political Action Committee fundraising activities.

#### **BENEFIT LEADERS' ROUNDTABLES**

- Informal groups of senior-level benefit leaders representing major plan sponsors either from specific industries or particular geographic areas across the country.
- Half-day meetings allow participants to network with colleagues and discuss similar benefit design, operation, and communications opportunities, challenges, and strategies.
- A legislative and regulatory update is provided that pertains to the particular industry or location.
- Participants provide Council staff with direction on policy issues that require special attention due to the design or operation of group members' benefit plans.