



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: July 3, 2013

CONTACT: Carolyn Lewis, Media Chair
916-568-2345 x217
clewis@benefitsdoneright.com

Benefits Brokers Respond to Affordable Care Act (ACA) Delay Announcement

Late in the day on July 2, 2013, the Department of the Treasury on behalf of the Obama Administration said it would delay for one year Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) provisions 6055 and 6056 that require large employers to report to the IRS whether they provide minimum essential health insurance coverage and affordable coverage to their full-time employees.

“What this means is that the employer mandates to provide coverage and penalties for not offering affordable or minimum essential coverage as defined by the ACA law will also be delayed to 2015” said Shannon Zajec, President of the Sacramento Association of Health Underwriters.

“The announcement, while completely unexpected, certainly put us on our toes,” said Laurie Rood, CEO of the Benefits Done Right Insurance Agency in Sacramento. “Our team is PPACA certified agency through the National Association of Health Underwriters, and we have been working diligently for several years in preparation for the healthcare reform law’s numerous provisions. We are happy to say that we were able to notify all of our clients by 6 pm yesterday. Having more time to prepare is always welcome news and provides some relief for those affected by it most.”

Janet Trautwein, CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters agrees that brokers and business owners across the US were grateful for the reprieve. “We appreciate that the Obama administration has listened to the concerns of American businesses and delayed the penalties for a requirement that was not ready to be to effectively implemented,” she said in a statement Wednesday.

“About 98 percent of all large employers in the United States already offer coverage. Providing transition relief will allow businesses recovering from the economic hardships of the past five years to make sound business decisions to comply with the health reform law’s requirements without fear of significant financial penalties in the first year of changed operations.”

The administration has promised specific guidance by next week, and says that formal rules will be proposed later this summer. While they recognize that the current reporting guidelines are “complicated and impractical” they “strongly encourage employers to voluntarily implement information reporting in 2014” once revised rules are issues.

The Sacramento Association of Health Underwriters (SAHU) is a local chapter of the California Association (CAHU) and the National Association (NAHU). Our vision is that every American will have access to solutions for health, financial and retirement security, as well as the services of insurance professionals to assist in navigating these areas. SAHU’s mission is to improve our members’ ability to meet the health, financial and retirement security needs of all Americans through education, advocacy and professional development. Please visit us at <http://www.sahu-ca.com/>.

###