

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Re: Lubbock Chamber Officials Address D.C. District Court Ruling on Association Health Plans

Lubbock Chamber of Commerce officials today issued the following statement denouncing a court ruling that remanded to the U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) a rule expanding association health plans.

“The Lubbock Chamber continues to strongly support Association Health Plan (AHP) regulations that provide small businesses with the flexibility and options that larger businesses have had under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), allowing the Chamber to provide quality health insurance plans that were previously only available to large businesses. Such plans are growing in Texas and throughout the nation.

“We stand by the health care solutions we along with our partners are offering to small businesses and their families in West Texas, and we are confident in the AHP regulations issued last year by USDOL and their ability to stand up under appeal. Although many of the claims are what we believe to be politically-motivated in litigation filed last year by various states’ Attorneys General, we look forward to strengthening rules allowing us to continue operating our West Texas Employer Health Plan.

“For more than a decade, the Lubbock Chamber has been at the forefront of championing award-winning health care coverage solutions for small businesses and their families. AHPs are a step in the right direction, improving upon and operating within the ACA, and we will continue fighting for innovative health care solutions for our members despite temporary and unnecessary setbacks such as this.”

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The Lubbock Chamber of Commerce represents almost 2,000 businesses and over 79,000 employees on the South Plains which accounts for over \$2 billion in annual household earnings in Lubbock and West Texas. Since 1913 the Chamber, as a catalyst for business growth; a convener of leaders and influencers; and a champion for a stronger community, has served as a unified voice of business by actively advocating for a pro-jobs, pro-growth, pro-business climate.