



Workplace Wellness in Health Care Reform

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Will Workplace Wellness be part of Health Care Reform?

- What are the prospects that workplace wellness will be part of health care reform?
- What can we do to encourage legislative support for businesses to invest in wellness?
- It's not too late to make your voice heard!



The Healthy Workforce Act of 2009

- Introduced by U.S. Senator Tom Harkin and U.S. Congressman Earl Blumenauer
- Tax credit to all employers for 50% of the cost of a qualified employer health promotion program.
- Up to \$200/employee for the first 200 employees and \$100/employee thereafter.



The Healthy Workforce Act of 2009

- Employers with existing programs receive the credit for up to three years. Employers without programs can receive the credit for up to 10 years.
- Companies would be eligible by establishing programs that raise health awareness, encourage behavior change, and prompt participation through an incentive.



2006-08 Wellness Public Policy

- Twenty-five states introduced legislative wellness initiatives.
 - Insurance discounts, rebates, tax incentives
 - State contracting preferences
 - Appropriations bills, etc.
- Forty-five states considered legislation regarding childhood obesity issues.
 - Nutrition education
 - Physical education



How do we make Wellness Win!

- Grassroots Strategy (aggressive)
- C³: Connect, Communicate, Care
- Hold them accountable - promises made, promises kept!



Questions