

Bill Enables Small Employers to Help Employees Pay for Healthcare

WEX Health Plays Key Role in Advocating for Change

Fargo, ND – December 7, 2016 – [WEX Health](#), a WEX Company and an award-winning healthcare financial technology platform provider, shares that today the U.S. Senate passed the 21st Century Cures Act. The Act contains the provisions of the Small Business Healthcare Relief Act, which enables small employers with fewer than 50 full-time employees to provide standalone health reimbursement arrangements that can be used to reimburse eligible healthcare expenses including health insurance premiums. The law is effective for plan years beginning after December 31, 2016, but importantly, it provides transition relief through that date so that any small employers with non-compliant plans will not be penalized.

WEX Health was first to bring this issue to the attention of lawmakers and staff on Capitol Hill three years ago, in response to multiple rulings from IRS, HHS, and DOL that effectively outlawed these arrangements. The Cures Act overturns that guidance and enables small businesses for whom offering a group health plan is not practical to provide assistance to their employees to cover health insurance premiums and out-of-pocket expenses. WEX Health maintained the leadership position in advocating for this important change, along the way building an important coalition of business and industry groups and generating true bipartisan support. WEX Health appreciates the hard work of many committed and passionate lawmakers and their staffs that made this outcome possible, as well as the support of many WEX Health Partners who participated in advocacy efforts on behalf of this important reform.

This legislation creates a market opportunity for Partners. A large percentage of small employers do not offer group health but want to find a way to help their employees with healthcare costs. The HRAs allowed by the Cures Act are just the vehicle to enable them to provide that support. WEX Health Partners are encouraged to contact their Partner Account Executive with any questions they have.

About WEX Health

At WEX Health, we simplify the business of healthcare. We do that through WEX Health Cloud, a cloud-based healthcare financial management platform that drives efficiency for benefit administration technology, consumer engagement, and advanced billing and payments. Our network of partner organizations enables us to deliver our industry-leading and award-winning solution to 200,000 employers and more than 17 million consumers across the United States and Canada. Together we take the complexity out of defined contribution, HSAs, HRAs, FSAs, VEBAs, PRAs, premium billing, public and private health insurance exchanges, COBRA, wellness plans, and transit plans. Learn more at www.wexhealthinc.com, and follow WEX Health at @WEXHealthInc.

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