

PRESENTATION TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS & INSURANCE

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Overview

 Employer Mandates Under Affordable Care Act (ACA)

Exchanges

Business Take on HSA's and Alt.
Reform Options





Overview

- Support repeal of ACA, NFIB multi-state lawsuit
 - "Repeal" likely would come in pieces vs. blanket repeal
- ACA does little to address problem- COST
- Increased demand for services likely INCREASES cost
- Studies show large % of employers could drop coverage



Employer Mandates

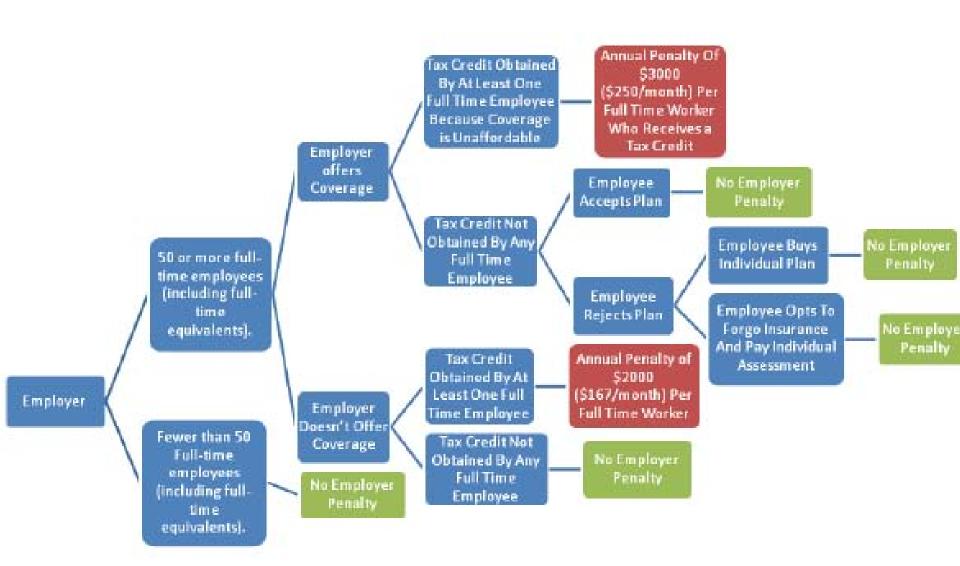
- More than 60% of nonelderly Americans receive coverage through employer
- ACA dramatically changes marketvoluntary system now mandatory for many employers





- Employers with >50 employees must offer coverage or face fines
 - One exception- if employer has >50 employees, doesn't offer coverage, and has no employees receiving tax credit for health insurance- no penalty
- If employer has >50 employees and ONE employee denies plan coverage, seeks tax subsidy or benefit, penalties are \$3,000 per employee receiving tax credit.





Courtesy of US Chamber of Commerce



- Employer has >50 employees and does not offer coverage
 - Penalty of \$2,000 per full-time worker
- If applicable large employer fails to offer "minimum essential coverage" but employee receives tax credit, penalty capped at max. penalty amount employer would face if employer did not offer any coverage



- Example:
 - Company A does not offer min. essential coverage to 100 full time employees, 10 employees receive tax credit
 - For each employee over 30-employee threshold, Company A owes \$2,000 for a total penalty of \$140,000 (\$2,000 multiplied by 70(100-30))
- Penalties for companies who offer coverage but have employees receive tax credit (\$2,000 calculated in similar fashion)





- Polls suggest employers could drop coverage
 - 30% in McKinsey Quarterly poll
 - 29% large companies in Towers Watson either will drop or are unsure
 - 8% Mercer poll





- Take Company A with 55 employees
- Company pays \$600,000 to offer health insurance
- Calculate penalty by number of employees (55) and subtract first 30.
 The number of employees (25) is multiplied by annual penalty of \$2,000=\$50,000 penalty.
- Savings= \$550,000*





Small Employer Tax Credits

- Phase I (2010-2013)
 - Credit amount is up to 35% of "employer costs"
- Phase II (2014-)
 - Credit amount is up to 50% of lesser of employer's premium contribution for plan in exchange or average premium contribution in small-group market.
 - Credit available for two years (total of 6 taxable years of eligibility)
 - Not intended to subsidize those previously offering coverage. Meant for those who never offered coverage.



Small Employer Tax Credits

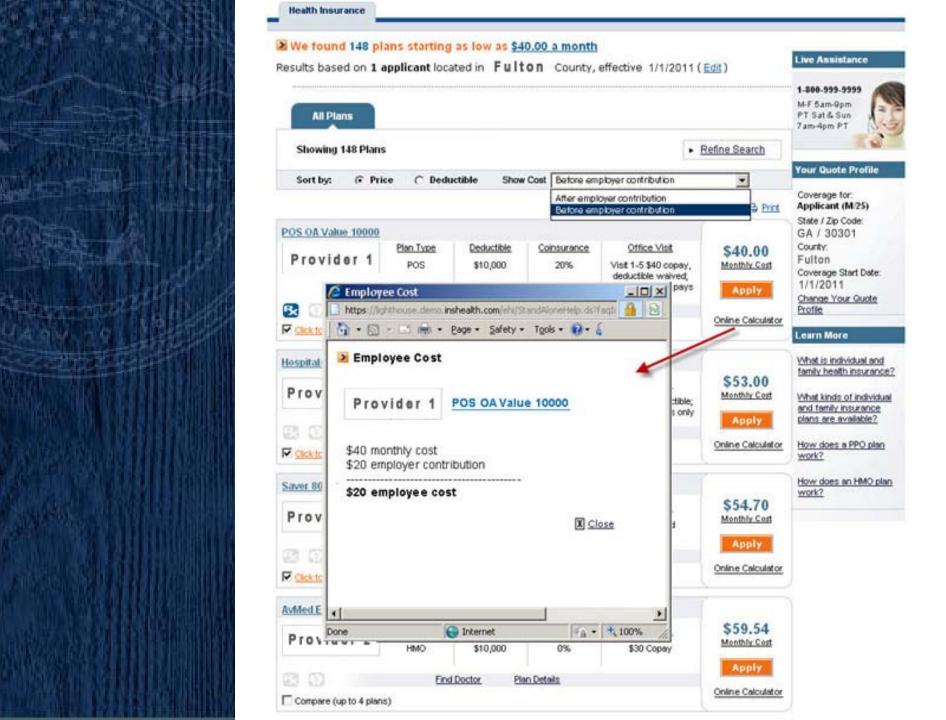
- Self-employed are not eligible
 - Represent 78% of small business in U.S.
- Hard to receive FULL credit- must have <10 employees w/ taxable wages <\$25,000 AND pay 50% of coverage
- Credit phased out as # of employees, wages increase





- What is an exchange?
 - Depends on who you ask
 - Assist in selection and enrollment of plan
 - Comparative information, enrollment through provider













- Goal of SHOP exchange under ACA to pool small businesses together to purchase insurance
- State must establish SHOP by 2014 or feds will provide one (would need legislation in 2012)
- Small biz defined as fewer than 100 employees, although states can limit pools to 50 or fewer through 2016
- Employees will have choice of carriers within a level of coverage (bronze, silver, gold, platinum)





- Federal Exchange
 - Regulations have not been released
 - Met with HHS on November 3 to discuss outlook of fed exchange, provide input, gather information
- State Exchange
 - Attending KID meeting since January 2011.
 - Serve on Steering Committee, Governance Subcommittee, Focus/Biz Ops Subcommittee





- State exchange more flexible*
- Fed exchange offers no flexibility for state
 - Actuarial details
 - Agent commission
 - Participation rate for employers
- Fed exchange could compete with private market
- "Obamacare" exchanges, state or federal, still add layer of government.
- Comes back to cost





- Alternative Option
 - Private exchange without legislative authority sponsored by business community for members





Alternative Options

- HSA's
 - Consumer choice
 - Used to meet your deductible
 - Tax deductible off of gross income
 - Grow tax-deferred
 - NEVER taxed when used for qualified medical expenses
 - Rolls over year after year -- no "use it or lose it"
 - Portable, goes with you wherever you go
 - Employers can contribute





Alternative Options

- Tax Reform for Individual Policies
 - Today, workers who purchase coverage through employer receive an unlimited tax break on the value of their benefits
 - Those who purchase on their own do not
 - Equalize through universal tax credits for tax payers
 - Again, consumer choice and control
 - State legislation, resolution for Fed action
- Promotes portability





Summary

- "Be careful what you wish for"
 - MassCare was expected to cost \$88 million/year.
 - Today HC budget exceeds \$4 billion
 - Longest wait times in country- avg. of 46.7 days
 - "Jumpers and Dumpers"
- Mandates increase cost
- And this is just for one state, imagine the feds running the show.





Summary

- But for those who are unsubsidized, such as small business purchasers, exchanges will likely struggle to provide a product that is more affordable than what is available in the outside market. The ACA's small business tax credit will help small group exchanges with enrollment, but it is narrowly targeted and limited to three years.
- Georgetown University Health Policy Institute





Summary

- What lowers costs of doing business in Kansas?
 - Do exchanges have potential?
 - Yes, if they're free from government interference
 - Will a Federal or State exchange lower costs?
 - No, ACA has so many elements that will increase costs on business, providers, etc.

