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LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT

PBGC to Launch Pilot Mediation Project to Resolve Certain Termination Liability Collection and Early Warning Program Cases

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 16, 2017

WASHINGTON – The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation announced a new pilot program to offer mediation in certain Termination Liability Collection and Early Warning Program cases. PBGC's Pilot Mediation Project will allow parties to resolve cases with the assistance of a skilled, neutral and independent dispute resolution professional in a timely and cost-effective manner.

The mediation project is part of the agency's ongoing efforts to make it easier for sponsors to maintain their pension plans. "We want our customers to know we're listening to them and we want to improve their experience in working with us," said PBGC Director Tom Reeder. "By providing an alternative dispute resolution option for employers who sponsor ongoing and terminated plans, we expect to save time and money for both the government and our stakeholders."

PBGC Stakeholders Support Mediation Pilot

After one year, PBGC will evaluate the Mediation Pilot's success on multiple metrics, including:

- Percent of eligible cases opting for mediation,
- Resolution rate and time to resolution, and
- Cost savings.

The American Benefits Council applauds the pilot program for addressing issues raised by companies that sponsor pension plans.

"We at the American Benefits Council are very pleased about the new Pilot Mediation Project," said Lynn Dudley, senior vice president, global retirement and compensation policy, for the American Benefits Council. "This is an excellent signal that PBGC is listening to plan sponsors and being creative to improve its programs and its relationships with sponsors. We look forward to the opportunity to continue to work with PBGC to enhance this Pilot Project and strengthen the employer-provided pension system."

PBGC chose Termination Liability Collections cases and Early Warning Program matters for the pilot project as potentially reaping the greatest benefit from mediation. For additional information about eligibility, please visit the PBGC – Plan Sponsor Pilot Mediation Project [webpage](#).

Visit PBGC.gov. **PBGC Number: 17-7**

Actually, President Trump is raising health insurance premiums

by [Tami Luhby](#) [@Luhby](#) October 17, 2017

President Trump and congressional Republicans have long vowed to lower health insurance premiums

But President Trump's decision to halt funding for Obamacare's [cost-sharing subsidies](#) last week will actually raise rates next year.

In an article posted on CNN© online, by Tami Luhby, states that Many states had already allowed insurers to steeply hike Obamacare premiums for 2018, anticipating that Trump may cut off federal support for the subsidies, which reimburse insurers for reducing the deductibles and co-pays of lower-income enrollees. In California, for instance, carriers will levy a surcharge of up to 27% on silver-level plans.

The article further explains that CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield, one of two insurers on the Maryland exchange, is already asking regulators to raise rates. Earlier this year, it had requested premium hikes of 50.4% and 58.8%, on average, for its HMO and PPO policies, respectively. It was granted increases of 34.5% and 49.9% for those policies. Pennsylvania regulators said that rates will jump 30.6%, on average, rather than the 7.6% hike that was expected had Trump continued funding the subsidies.

To view and read entire article go to: <http://money.cnn.com/2017/10/17/news/economy/trump-premiums/index.html>

