

AHIP Statement on Essential Health Benefits

Washington, DC – America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) President and CEO Karen Ignagni released the following statement on new guidance from the Department of Health and Human Services on essential health benefits:

"We are carefully reviewing this guidance and agree that it is vital that the final essential health benefits requirement ‘[balance comprehensiveness, affordability, and State flexibility](https://www.cciio.cms.gov/resources/files/Files2/12162011/essential_health_benefits_bulletin.pdf).’ (cciiio.cms.gov/resources/files/Files2/12162011/essential_health_benefits_bulletin.pdf) As the Institute of Medicine (IOM) made clear in its recent report, ‘[state mandates are not typically subjected to a rigorous evidence-based review or cost analysis](http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=13234),’ (<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=13234>) an issue that should be addressed to ensure affordability for individuals, working families and small employers.”

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America’s Health Insurance Plans – Providing Health Benefits to More Than 200 Million Americans