

On April 2nd, legislation that would provide a tax credit to companies offering “effective and comprehensive wellness programs” was introduced in both the House and Senate. The Healthy Workforce Act (H.R. 1897, S. 803) would amend the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) to provide a credit for 50 percent of the costs employers would incur in implementing such wellness programs for their employees. The bill was introduced by Senators Tom Harkin (D-IA) and John Cornyn (R-TX) and Representatives Earl Blumenauer (D-OR) and Mary Bono Mack (R-CA). To be eligible for this credit, businesses would need to provide programs that include, among other elements, “health risk assessments, health awareness and behavior change programs, meaningful incentives for program participation and an employee committee that tailors programs to meet workforce needs.” The bill caps the credit amount at \$200 per employee for businesses with fewer than 200 employees, and \$100 per employee for those with more than 200 employees. The proposed legislation can be accessed at: <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c110:H.R.3717>