ILLINOIS CHAMBER

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL

STRONGER BUSINESS
STRONGER ILLINOIS

Illinois Chamber of Commerce

HEALTHCARE COUNCIL

The Healthcare Council brings together a unique collaboration of diverse leaders both directly and indirectly involved in our healthcare system to advance solutions that promote an affordable, accessible, efficient and high quality healthcare system in Illinois.

A TRUSTED ADVOCATE AND AN INNOVATIVE LEADER

The Healthcare Council members serve as the Chamber's primary resource for responding to and influencing healthcare policy at both the state and federal levels. The Council has built a respected brand in Springfield and amongst other advocacy organizations for its credible and thoughtful responses to policy issues thanks to the diverse intellectual capital and experience of its members. The Council's influence, however, extends beyond the boundaries of public policy and includes partnerships with public and private organizations and entities to help educate and advance initiatives that improve the health and well-being of employers, employees and all individual and families across the state.

LEADERS IN HEALTHCARE POLICY

The members of the Healthcare Council are leaders in their fields who have a broader, vested interest in state policies. Our members are always consulted on the various legislative and regulatory discussions that come up in Illinois and inform the Chamber on if, and how, we can use our resources to assist on an issue.

PROVIDING VALUE

As the largest hospital in the state, Northwestern Memorial Hospital has been a member of the Chamber's Healthcare Council since its inception. The Healthcare Council is a pro-business forum that gives us the opportunity to meet and work collaboratively with others in the industry, from hospitals to insurance companies and small business owners. Our relationship with the Council has been a real asset.

It is exceptionally helpful to have someone outside the hospital industry working alongside us who understood our issues. The Chamber, with its broad coalition of businesses, was and continues to be an invaluable partner and advocate.

— Rob Christie
Northwestern Memorial Hospital

YOUR CONNECTION TO HEALTHCARE FIELD

The depth and breadth of the Healthcare Council continues to grow and members are contacting each other to find business and government relations synergies they wouldn't otherwise have discovered. We're the only "table" in the state that brings together such a wide array of companies in our diverse healthcare system.

SPRINGFIELD'S LEADING GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS TEAM

Our experienced government affairs professionals keep an eye on proposed legislation and track it so members can focus on when and where to get involved. We also collaborate with your lobbying team and, to the extent possible, the other representing organizations in Springfield to help our members stay informed on all issues healthcare and non-healthcare related.

YOUR "THIRD-PARTY" VOICE

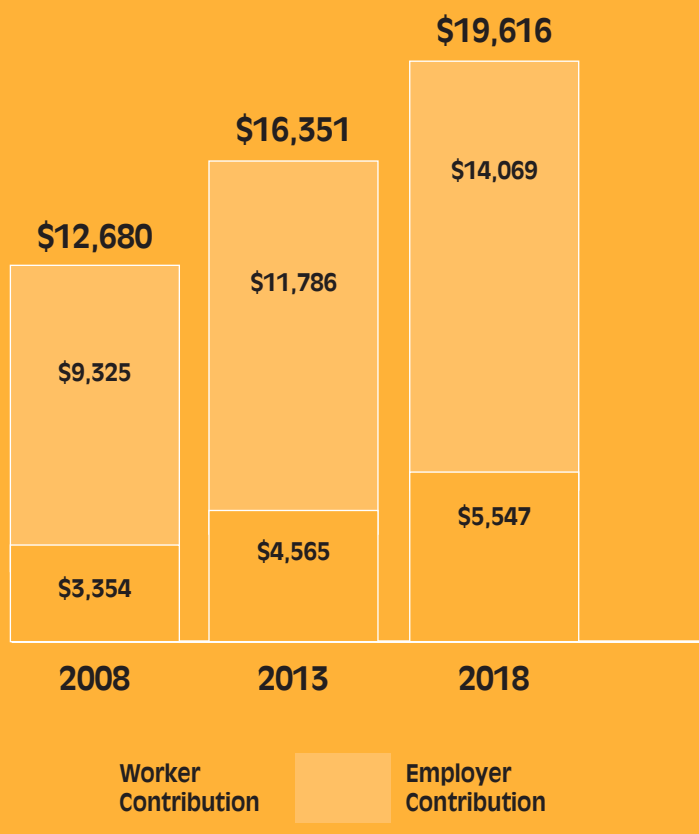
We provide assistance with institution-specific issues (via letters to the editor, media interviews and meetings) to bring a big picture voice to the discussion and help provide needed perspective on local or regional issues/ controversies every company and institution faces from time to time.

The Healthcare Council advocates and advances solutions that promote an affordable, accessible, efficient and high-quality healthcare system in Illinois. With the ever rising cost of health insurance premiums, 61 percent over the last 10 years to be exact, it's imperative that we work towards affordable yet innovative and sustainable solutions through the guidance of our members.

The cost of healthcare has a direct impact on employers through the cost of health insurance premiums. As healthcare costs rise, so do health insurance premiums, eliminating investment opportunities that could otherwise be made on additional employees or products.

As we develop innovative solutions to reduce healthcare costs, such as prevention oriented care, the number of employees in the workforce will increase while also becoming more efficient. Member involvement in developing these innovative solutions is key to our success and the preservation of the current healthcare system.

AVERAGE ANNUAL HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS AND WORKER CONTRIBUTIONS FOR FAMILY COVERAGE



NOTE: Since 2008, the average family premium has increased 55% and the average worker contribution toward the premium has increased 65%

Source: KFF Employer Health Benefits Survey, 2018; Kaiser/ HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2008 and 2013

https://www.kff.org/report-section/2018-employer-health-benefits-survey-summary-of-findings/attachment/figure-b/ Kaiser/HRET Survey of Employer-Sponsored Health Benefits, 2005-2015

LORI COWDREY BENSO

Lori is an attorney with over 30 years of experience in law practice and health insurance. As the Executive Director of the Healthcare Council, she represents the diverse voices of the healthcare community and advocates for market-based solutions that expand access to high-quality healthcare options. Lori has served as both outside and in-house counsel, managed the State of Illinois health plans and represented multi-state health plans, start-ups, ACOs, health care non-profits and provider sponsored plans. She offers a wealth of experience and perspective with regard to government relations, regulatory compliance, lobbying, licensing and strategic planning. Lori is currently in private practice with McClain & Canoy. Prior to entering private practice, Lori served as Senior Vice President and General Counsel for an Illinois health plan for over 15 years. She is a member of the ISBA Employee Benefits Council and is a former Chair.

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OTHER COUNCILS

THE EMPLOYMENT LAW COUNCIL effectively represents Illinois business on employment law topics such as workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, and other management/employee issues. It also pursues public policy actions that advance the interests and viewpoints of employers, and assists in creating a political climate conducive to improving Illinois' ability to create and retain jobs.

THE ENERGY COUNCIL encourages the development and availability of all kinds of energy and conservation measures in an environmentally-responsible and cost-effective way. Illinois needs policies that promote the continued expansion of energy production in the state, allow for development of energy resources, and the development of infrastructure to meet the state's and nation's increasing energy demands.

THE INFRASTRUCTURE COUNCIL focuses on public systems that are essential to Illinois business; roads and bridges, railways (freight and public transit), shipping via waterways and airports. The council is seeking new members to initiate efforts for water supply and treatment, utilities, pipelines, power generation, power distribution systems and communications networks. All of these systems impact the civic, social, and economic future of the people and employers of Illinois.

THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COUNCIL focuses on building strategic partnerships to maximize the resources of the Illinois Chamber's members to expand in foreign markets and foster trade and investment in Illinois. The International Business Council's outreach includes Illinois businesses and a global network of local and foreign chambers of commerce, along with state and federal agencies and high-level political and diplomatic circles.

THE TAX INSTITUTE is an operating division of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce. The council's mission is to aggressively and pro-actively promote the interests of the Illinois business community by advocating pro-business tax policies at the federal, state, and local level that will enable Illinois businesses to grow and prosper.

THE TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION COUNCIL seeks to aggressively and proactively promote the interests of the Illinois technology community by advocating for public policy that fosters innovation and promotes economic growth. The council seeks to promote workforce development policies, advocate for world-class technology infrastructure, avoid overregulation on the industry and support innovators access to the capital they need to grow.

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