



**DATE:** April 19, 2010  
**TO:** Our Valued Client Partners & Friends  
**FROM:** HIB Account Team  
**RE: LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2010-10**  
**Congress Pushes COBRA Subsidy Availability to May 31, 2010**

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We are pleased to bring you our **Legislative Update 2010-10: Congress Pushes COBRA Subsidy Availability to May 31, 2010**. This is just a quick advisement that Congress has extended the subsidy of COBRA benefits for Qualified Beneficiaries as originally enacted in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. As we have mentioned before, this is just a temporary extension until Congress concurs on a final solution during these economic times.

As always, please feel free to contact your HIB Account Team for assistance.

#### **Congress Pushes COBRA Subsidy Availability to May 31, 2010**

After a week of partisan politics, Congress once again amended the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, as previously amended, to extend subsidy benefits to COBRA Qualified Beneficiaries whose COBRA rights emanated from an involuntary termination occurring on or before May 31, 2010. Congress continues these temporary fixes while it continues its debate on a permanent change in the COBRA subsidy benefit.

Individuals who underwent an involuntary termination between April 1, 2010 and April 15, 2010 (date of enactment) also benefit from the extension of the COBRA premium subsidy. It's important to note that this same legislation ([H.R. 4851](#), known as the Continuing Extension Act) extends eligibility for unemployment benefits to eligible individuals through June 2, 2010.

We will provide you with more information on this legislation as it becomes available. At present, it is our understanding that the new legislation contains no other substantive changes to the current COBRA subsidy protocol.



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