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NAHU Supports Improvements to HSA Legislation

(Washington, DC) – Janet Trautwein, CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters (NAHU), issued the following statement on tomorrow’s House Ways and Means Health Subcommittee hearing on “Lowering Costs and Expanding Access to Health Care through Consumer-Directed Health Plans”:

“NAHU applauds the action by Health Subcommittee Chairman Peter Roskam and this committee for their focus on making Health Savings Accounts more appealing and attractive to a broader number of people and employers. HSAs are a cost-effective option for employers and their employees, and they satisfy growing consumer preference for greater choice, control and flexibility in managing their healthcare needs.

“The Bipartisan HSA Improvement Act deserves the support of everyone in Congress. Advancing these important HSA reforms into law this year will save patients -- and the nation's healthcare system -- a significant amount of money.

“This common-sense bill was introduced by Rep. Mike Kelly and Earl Blumenauer, and would allow high-deductible plans to cover the cost of routine primary care checkups, medications for chronic conditions and preventive tests before enrollees hit their health insurance deductibles. These changes would make high-deductible HSA plans attractive to more people. That means more savings for consumers -- and downward pressure on prices as more people shop around for high-value care.

“NAHU will continue to promote HSAs as a way of helping more Americans afford health insurance. HSAs give consumers a reason to be value-conscious shoppers in the healthcare marketplace. When patients are paying more attention to the cost of healthcare and demanding value for their dollars, total healthcare spending can be more efficient. We look forward to working with the committee and this Congress on making the cost of healthcare more affordable for all Americans.”

The National Association of Health Underwriters represents 100,000 professional health insurance agents and brokers who provide insurance for millions of Americans. NAHU is headquartered in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.nahu.org.

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