



**PRES WHITE AGENCY, INC**  
**A Maxon Company**

# Pres White Journal

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From  
**GEORGE J. COHEN**



## Points of Interest

- Don't overlook NYSDBL coverage for your clients.
- New easy to quote dental and vision plans now available.



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## Positioning Our Way Forward

With a new administration in place and the new congress seated, it remains to be seen whether the days of hope and promises turn into deeds and accomplishments. Employer based healthcare was a big talking point during the campaign. It appears that changes are certainly going to happen, but what they are and how long until we see them remains to be seen.

President Obama has discussed transparency of medical costs which could actually lower healthcare and prescription drug costs. On the employer side, businesses would be fined for not providing an adequate level of healthcare benefits to employees. Of course adequate can mean anything. It appears that Obama would leave this to the states.

Among many open questions

are how would multi-state insured plans cope with such rules, and what about self-funded plans that aren't subject to state regulation?



The States are involved too. In New York, Gov. David Patterson has announced in his State of the State address a proposal to expand COBRA benefits to dependents age 19 to 29. The extended coverage would be age banded which would help lower the premium for the employee who is responsible for paying for these costs. This coverage would be available to some

800,000 or 31 percent of the state's uninsured. This is similar to New Jersey's 2006 dependent coverage expansion law.

What does all of this mean to you? As always, stay informed and proactive with your clients so you do not end up on the wrong side of a Broker of Record letter.

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## HOT OFF THE PRESS!

The Stimulus bill signed into law February 17, 2009 includes a COBRA subsidy for qualified beneficiaries who lost coverage due to termination of employment. The feds will pay 65% of the applicable COBRA premium for up to 9 months through payroll tax refunds or credits.

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