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AMERICAN BENEFITS COUNCIL

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Employer Groups Urge Congress to Pass Additional Defined Benefit Pension Funding Relief:

The American Benefits Council was one of 35 employers, organizations and trade groups to sign a letter to all members of Congress, urging the swift consideration and passage of "temporary provisions that would ease cash flow constraints and make [pension] contributions more predictable and manageable." The Council has engaged in high-level discussions with members of Congress to advance specific defined benefit plan funding relief proposals. Some of these provisions have been included in the 401(k) Fair Disclosure and Pension Security Act (H.R. 2989), as approved by the House of Representatives Education and Labor Committee, in the Savings Recovery Act.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS:

On behalf of plan sponsors that provide retirement security benefits to millions of workers, the undersigned organizations urge you to enact legislation this year that would ensure that pension contributions are not out of proportion to those required before the market downturn and that benefit restrictions are not allowed to go into place simply because of the recession and sudden market downturn.

We thank you for your quick action last year on the Worker, Retiree, and Employer Recovery Act of 2008 that provided needed relief. However, because of the ongoing financial crisis, further legislation is needed to encourage economic recovery and reinvestment and protect retirement security. Without further legislative action, unexpected funding requirements will continue to require many employers to lay off workers, close plants, and postpone investments in order to fund their pension plans, which are long-term obligations. This could result in increased unemployment and a slower economic recovery. Moreover, legislative action is needed immediately as organizations are making these decisions right now.

We strongly urge Congress to move swiftly to adopt follow-up, temporary provisions that would ease cash flow constraints and make contributions more predictable and manageable. We believe that relatively modest temporary changes can provide greater stability and improved chances of economic recovery for many companies, nonprofits, and charitable organizations.

Thank you in advance for your support of this important effort. The undersigned organizations look forward to working with you and your staff to advance legislation that will promote our nation's economic recovery and reinvestment, while securing sound long-term pension plan funding.

Sincerely,

**American Benefits Council
and other organizations**