

News Brief

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President Biden Addresses Employee Benefits and the Workplace in State of the Union

On Tuesday, March 1, President Joe Biden gave the 2022 State of the Union address (SOTU). The SOTU is an annual speech delivered by the president around the beginning of each year.

Generally, the speech outlines how the country is doing and signals future initiatives the president wants to pursue. For employers, the SOTU is important because it often provides insight into proposed plans and initiatives relevant to the workplace.

The 2022 SOTU was effectively segmented into two parts: the first discussed international affairs—particularly the Russia-Ukraine conflict—and the second talked about various domestic matters, including those relevant to the workplace. This article focuses on the latter half of the SOTU. Read on for the main takeaways from the speech.

“If we want to go forward—not backward—we must protect access to health care.”

-President Biden, in the address

Insulin Caps

One of the major health care announcements from the SOTU regarded insulin prices. Biden proposed to cap the price of insulin at \$35 a month for everyone. Currently, insulin can cost hundreds of dollars a month for individuals with diabetes.

Medicare Negotiated Drug Prices

The president briefly mentioned his desire to let Medicare negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. He compared this initiative to the existing model from the Department of Veterans Affairs, which allows for negotiation of drug prices.

Mental Health Investment

One of the more detailed SOTU talking points regarded mental health, with the White House releasing its [implementation strategy](#). The president’s goal is to “get all Americans the mental health services they need” and stem the tide of mental health issues across the

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