**DAAR Ambassador Talking Points**

***Week of March 5th, 2019***

**Industry Updates**

***Topic #1: Call to Action: Support the Association Health Plan Rule! Deadline is March 6th***

In an effort to expand access to more affordable, high-quality health insurance coverage, on January 5, 2018, the U.S. Department of Labor proposed a rule allowing self-employed individuals and small employers to purchase health insurance through professional or trade associations by expanding access to Association Health Plans (AHPs). An AHP plan would be treated as a large employer plan under federal law, subject to different rules than plans in the individual and small group insurance markets that tend to be more costly.

NAR supports the proposed rule, which could provide more affordable health insurance options for many REALTORS®. However, there are some important clarifications needed in the rule to maximize participation by self-employed real estate professionals. The final rule could also be subject to legal challenges further delaying finalization.

NAR is encouraging members to write a letter to the Department of Labor in support the proposed rule. To submit a letter, please visit the Comment function on the Federal Register via <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2018/01/05/2017-28103/definition-of-employer-under-section-35-of-erisa-association-health-plans#open-comment>

Please keep in mind that comment letters to federal agencies like this are unique, where personalization is useful in informing the agency on how they can improve the proposed rule.

You may write your own comments or personalize this sample letter (.docx, 25 KB) found here <https://www.nar.realtor/sites/default/files/documents/member-sample-letter-dol-ahp-proposed-rule-2018-02-07.docx>

with your letterhead and feedback. The comments can be copied and pasted into the comment form or uploaded as a PDF. The deadline for comments is March 6, 2018

For more information, visit the DAAR website via <https://dullesarea.com/2018/03/04/call-to-action-support-the-association-health-plan-rule/>

***Topic #2: Your Clients May Need to Register for Renting Out Rooms in Their Homes***

Loudoun County stepped closer to creating a registration process for homeowners who rent out rooms in Loudoun County. County staff is working on a draft ordinance to put in place a free registration process for people who offer short-term room rentals. Once complete, the public will have an opportunity to comment on the draft ordinance.

For more information, visit the DAAR website via <https://dullesarea.com/2018/03/02/phase-i-part-ii-your-clients-may-need-to-register-for-renting-out-rooms-in-their-homes/>

**For Your Business**

***Topic #3: DPOR Now Accepting Applications with Electronic Signatures***

DPOR is now accepting applications with electronic signatures on them. This update is a significant perk for all REALTORS®, but particularly for firms that have remote offices. All forms can now be signed electronically instead of individuals having to sign a hard copy and then send the document back and forth. For more information, contact DPOR’s Real Estate Board at (804) 367-8552 or visit <http://www.dpor.virginia.gov/Boards/Real-Estate/>

For the full post see <https://dullesarea.com/2018/03/02/dpor-now-accepting-applications-with-electronic-signatures/>

***Topic #4: Looking for Consumer Facing Content? Free Articles for You***

The National Association of REALTORS’ consumer-facing website, HouseLogic, features information and tips for property owners who want smart solutions to enjoy, improve, and maintain their home; for buyers ready to find their happy place; and for sellers ready for their next chapter! This month, the site has four new feature articles focused on making kitchens and bathrooms look stunning without compromising on their toughness and durability. REALTORS® can share with their clients as part of their outreach and marketing efforts. To access the articles, visit <https://www.houselogic.com>

For the full post see <https://dullesarea.com/2018/03/02/need-client-outreach-content-consumer-facing-articles-for-you/>