Weekly Legislative Update  
Week of April 14, 2014

Congressional Outlook

Week of April 14th
The House and Senate are in recess this week and will return on April 28.

Week in Review

House Passes Ryan Budget

The House voted 219 to 205 last week to pass the fiscal year 2015 budget authored by Representative Paul Ryan (R-WI), which aims to balance the federal budget in 10 years through massive spending cuts. The budget blueprint, of which 12 Republicans voted against, will serve as a rallying point for the GOP during the November midterm elections.

Senate Passes bill Exempting Volunteer First Responders from ACA Employer Mandate

Despite the IRS's regulatory fix, the Senate yesterday passed the bill to exempt volunteer first responders as "employees" under the ACA's employer mandate. The Protecting Volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Responders Act, H.R. 3979, passed 59-38, would amend the Internal Revenue Code to exempt bona fide volunteers of government and nonprofit organizations from counting toward the employer mandate threshold. The bill passed the House on a 410-0 vote March 11, and though H.R. 3979 retained its original language when it exited the Senate, the bill also became a legislative vehicle for advancing a five-month extension of long-term unemployment insurance. The legislation may now be in peril when it returns to the House with the unemployment insurance amendment in tow. Rep. Lou Barletta (R-PA), who introduced H.R. 3979, described the insurance amendment as "hijacking" his bill.
Congressional Schedule

There are no hearings scheduled this week.