



NEWS RELEASE

Benefit Commerce Group Cautions Employers to Beware of W-2 Scammers

Scottsdale, AZ January 25, 2017 – **Benefit Commerce Group**, a Scottsdale-based innovative employee benefits consulting firm, is cautioning employers to be alert to possible criminal scammers that attempt to obtain employee W-2 and other identity information.

Scott Wood, Principal and CEO of Benefit Commerce Group, said, “We are notifying our employer clients to beware of any emails that ask for W-2 info or lists of employee data to be emailed back to the email sender. It’s tax season and that means the criminals are out in force, with slick new ways to steal identities and file fraudulent tax returns.”

The IRS says that these scammers have expanded beyond for-profit corporations and are now also targeting non-profits, tribal organizations and school districts.

Some scammers can make emails look like they are from the employer’s executives or other management personnel. Benefit Commerce Group has advised its clients not to respond to such emails, but to talk directly to that individual and find out if the email is fraudulent. If it is legitimate, the best practice is to only email through a secure encrypted method.

ABOUT Benefit Commerce Group

Benefit Commerce Group is an innovative and award-winning employee benefits consulting firm that is changing the health care cost paradigm, one company at a time. We provide employers with sustainable strategies to lower health plan costs first-year and long-term. Benefit Commerce is a “game-changer” for companies striving to control one of their highest expense items: employee benefits costs. We are not your typical benefits firm, and we are not offering typical cost-shifting techniques. Our strategies yield real savings for both employer and employee and also integrate meaningful consumer-focused employee health and wellness programs. Our technology enhancements also set us apart, as we offer methods to streamline HR functions from enrollment through ongoing employee

communication and administration. Through our proven programs, Benefit Commerce Group has helped our clients receive recognition from the Phoenix Business Journal's "Healthiest Employers" program, the Wellness Council of Arizona and The Institute for HealthCare Consumerism, a national organization. Clients have received over 100 awards in the past three years. The company conducts an annual Arizona Employee Benefits Benchmarking survey for mid-size employers across the state. The success of our strategies is illustrated by our Inc. 5000 listing for two years in a row among the fastest-growing private companies in America. Principals of the firm include Scott Wood, Johnny Angelone and Chris Hogan. For more information on Benefit Commerce Group, call us at 480-515-5010 or visit our website www.benefitcommerce.com.

For more information, contact:

Nancy Zalud

480-515-5010

Nancy@benefitcommerce.com