



Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees, Inc

Proudly representing retirees of the AT&T Midwest Region, SBC Midwest Region, Ameritech, and predecessor/successor Bell Companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the United States

Legislative Ledger

October 17, 2007 - AASBCR Legislative Input to the NRLN

All members of AASBCR, are also members of the National Retirees Legislative Network NRLN. The NRLN has 2 million members nationwide and a full time lobbyist in Washington DC assuring that our retiree issues are presented to Congressional Legislators from a position of strength.

The National Retirees Legislative Network (NRLN) is in the process of developing its 2008 Agenda. When finalized, it will be the primary focus of NLRN legislative activities for the year ahead. AASBCR officer Ray Sternot, Vice-President of Legislation, has been a part of that process. He has kept a watchful eye on the process and has penned four additional issues to round out the agenda in order to assure that all issues important to AASBCR members are included in the final draft. This month, AASBCR submitted those four issues as follows:

- 1. We want Healthcare Savings Accounts for Medicare Eligible Retirees who have High Deductible Medical Plans such as those offered by AT&T.**
- 2. We want Congressional Oversight for Medicare Part D Payments to Companies. Currently some companies accept the government Medicare Part D payments, but cap their medical plan contribution dollars to retirees thus pushing ALL plan cost increases off to retirees (e.g., AT&T).**
- 3. We want improved Funding of HSAs for retirees. Currently IRS rules limit the use of tax free withdrawal funding of HSAs from IRAs to the first year. We would like to also be able to fund HSAs with tax free IRA withdrawals in subsequent years. This funding suggestion should be carried over to Medicare Savings Accounts (MSAs) currently being trialed by Medicare.**
- 4. We want improved Mental Health Care for Retirees. Given the aging retiree population, we need basic healthcare plans that provide sufficient mental health coverage access similar to that provided for non-mental health issues.**