



Association of Ameritech /SBC Retirees, Inc

Proudly working on behalf of the retirees of Ameritech, SBC, and predecessor/successor Bell Companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the United States

Legislative Ledger

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Break Up Insurance Monopolies

Since 1945, health insurance companies have been exempt from the antitrust regulations, rules that protect consumers from anti-competitive business practices like price-fixing. The McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945 exempts health insurance companies from the antitrust regulations.

The Health Insurance Industry Antitrust Enforcement Act, S.1681 and H.R.3596 has been introduced in both Houses by Senator Patrick Leahy and Representative John Conyers. This act will eliminate the outdated insurance industry antitrust exemption, forcing health insurance companies to compete fairly - like virtually every other business in America.

This act is one more way to make healthcare more affordable and efficient by introducing real competition in the market place. For retirees on fixed incomes, this is an important concept. Today, insurance companies using their monopoly powers set prices for medical services rather than letting the market place set prices in a competitive environment. Insurance companies take a slice right off the top as profits and executive benefits all at the expense of consumers which include retirees.

AASBCR® supports S.1681 and H.R.3596. They will assist in slowing the rate of increase of healthcare costs for retirees.

Take Action:

Write to your Congressman and Senators. Go to www.aasbcr.org and at the bottom of the page enter your zip code in the box labeled "Find Your Officials at capwiz.com". Click on the current alert (prescription drugs), and modify the title to read "Break Up Insurance Monopolies". Replace the body of the alert with the comments above and/or provide comments of your own.