



**AT&T Ameritech /SBC Retirees – We are AASBCR®**

*Proudly working on behalf of the Bell System and successor companies of the New AT&T, located throughout the World*

## **Legislative Ledger**

**May 28, 2010**

**NRLN – What Have You Done for Us Lately? (4<sup>th</sup> in a series)**

**This Legislative Ledger provides information on what some company leaders are thinking about reducing costs by changing or eliminating healthcare benefits for employees and retirees. It is based on the recent Forbes Article: By Shawn Tully, Fortune - May 6, 2010**

[http://money.cnn.com/2010/05/05/news/companies/dropping\\_benefits.fortune/index.htm](http://money.cnn.com/2010/05/05/news/companies/dropping_benefits.fortune/index.htm)

**We really don't know what AT&T or other companies will do because of the taxing of the Medicare D subsidy. Companies who provide healthcare for employees and retirees are considering changes to the active and retiree health care benefits including pushing healthcare costs onto employees and retirees.**

**Many major companies provide healthcare benefits because it is in their best interest to offer these benefits in order to attract good employees. Employees earned these benefits by helping make these companies very profitable during their working years. Companies attracted and retained excellent employees in part, because they provided these benefits during active employment and upon retirement. Companies also receive tax deductions for providing employee/ retiree benefits which is a further incentive.**

**So what can be done to assure that companies continue to provide healthcare benefits for their retirees who earned those benefits during their active employment?**

**Retirees have two choices. Do nothing or do something to help themselves. Retirees can tell their retired friends about their retiree organization, AASBCR® See: [www.aasbcr.org](http://www.aasbcr.org)**



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Retirees can ask their friends to join AASBCR® and support the NRLN See: [www.nrln.org](http://www.nrln.org) which is actively lobbying these issues on retirees' behalf. Retirees can act on the Capwiz alerts that the NRLN publishes periodically via e-mail. Capwiz is an organized way to contact our representatives and Senators, and let them know that you support the NRLN Legislative Agenda and that retirees would like to see Congress address the issues outlined in it. In fact, the NRLN sent out a recent call to action on this topic requesting that members contact their representatives and suggest they reconsider the tax implications of the healthcare bill. Did you as a potentially affected retiree take action? If not, you are putting yourselves and fellow retirees at risk of being pushed totally to Medicare Part D and your only health insurance provided by the government.

So, the AASBCR® plea is to help the NRLN help retirees by becoming more pro-active in support of both AASBCR® and the NRLN. Part of an employee's job was and still is, to have an alternative or backup plan. Retirees today really need to support AASBCR® AND the NRLN as part of their backup plan. Doing nothing is not a viable option.