



For Immediate Release:

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## Retirees Fight For Their Health Future on Capitol Hill

### Plea from retirees: “We don’t want to lose our earned healthcare insurance”

Retirees from across the nation, traveled to Washington, D.C. on May 16 to meet with Members of Congress and discuss concerns related to healthcare protection and the need to pass federal legislation that would preserve earned retiree healthcare benefits. Retirees say they have already funded these benefits throughout their working years by accepting lower wages and fewer days off.

Over 22 million retirees across America have already had their healthcare canceled by their former employer and currently another 14.3 million are at risk of losing their benefits. The nonprofit group, ProtectSeniors.Org, sponsored the event to help retirees, fearful of losing these protections, fight back.

Clad in blue t-shirts saying, “Save Our Healthcare,” 65 ProtectSeniors.Org retirees met with the offices of 10 U.S. Senators and 15 members of the House of Representatives from the states of Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

“I think our presence in Washington, D.C. is going to make a difference in moving this issue and legislation forward,” said C. William Jones, Chairman of ProtectSeniors.Org. Mr. Jones is a Verizon retiree and also the president of the 128,000 member Association of BellTel Retirees Inc.

Alberta Arsenault a retiree from Clayton, NJ who made the trip to Capitol Hill said “We don’t want to lose our health insurance.”

Bill Harmon from Marmora, NJ added “we are all in this together... millions of retirees’ healthcare benefits are in jeopardy and I am in this for them, too.”

Chuck Rusinak from Eastern Virginia, said, “If we had known healthcare was not guaranteed many would not have retired when we did.”

Retirees were greeted by more than two dozen congressional officials, including Rep. Walter Jones (R-NC) a co-sponsor of bi-partisan legislation to protect the earned health benefits of America’s retirees. At a session held prior to the Congressional visits, Congressman Jones proclaimed, “when corporations make a commitment, it ought to be kept.” He said, retirees are “on the right side of this issue.”

“Going to Washington, D.C. is important so retiree constituents can meet with their elected officials face-to-face and explain what the issue is,” said Jim Casey, President of ProtectSeniors.Org. “Elected officials respond to having a group of 20, 30, 40 constituents from back home, and this interaction may just affect how retirees vote in the upcoming elections.”

ProtectSeniors.Org’s Executive Director Paul Miller added, “This issue is of vital importance to the economic survival of America’s retirees who traveled by bus, rail and car to arrive at our nation’s capital in order to meet with their elected officials about the need to pass vital retiree earned healthcare protection legislation.”

In addition to in-person visits, hundreds of ProtectSeniors.Org members from across the country also showed their support by contacting their Members of Congress as part of the organization’s ‘Virtual Hill Day’. These members sent over 1,700 messages to Capitol Hill bolstering the efforts of those in Washington, DC.

*About ProtectSeniors.Org: ProtectSeniors.Org represents 14.3 million retirees from 392 different companies, 45 labor union locals, 98 municipal, state and federal retiree groups and 16 national associations.*