



PROTECTSENIORS.ORG

...DEDICATED TO SAVING YOUR EARNED HEALTHCARE BENEFITS

601 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. Suite 900 South Building, Washington, DC. 20004
Phone (800) 398-3044 (202) 434-8193 ** Email: info@ProtectSeniors.Org
Website: www.ProtectSeniors.Org

August 24, 2009

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

On behalf of ProtectSeniors.Org and the 18.5 million retirees who earned and currently still have employer-sponsored health care coverage, I am writing to ask that you do not sign any health care reform legislation into law that does not include the provisions of H.R. 1322, the Emergency Retiree Health Benefits Protection Act.

H.R. 1322 is a vital component to reforming our health care system. It will ensure that those retirees who earned employer-sponsored benefits during their working years can maintain them and remain healthy and economically secure in their retirement. This bill will guarantee that the employer-based health care system into which retirees contributed will still be there for them.

In all the recent discussions about health care reform, retirees with earned benefits have been forgotten and ignored – in essence they are the new “donut hole.” Being eligible for Medicare does not mean that those over age 65 are “taken care of.” While a valuable benefit, there are many health care costs that Medicare does not cover, creating the need for supplemental plans. Retirees have earned supplemental coverage from employers and need to know this benefit is secure. Younger retirees under age 65 are also in a precarious position and should not have to rely on a public option or government plan when they have earned private coverage through their employers.

You have stated many times that in your vision for reform, Americans will get to keep the health care coverage they currently have if they choose to. Retirees WANT and NEED to keep their employer-sponsored coverage, but currently there is nothing stopping companies from taking it away. Retirees are among those least able to shoulder the burden of increased health costs due to fixed incomes and other rising costs and have a greater need for health care services, making this a necessity for reform.

We are asking Congress and your Administration to demand that corporations fulfill their obligations to their former employees. Please support retirees and ensure that they are protected as you consider health care reform.

Sincerely,

James E. Casey, Jr.

President

PAUL MILLER
Executive Director

C. WILLIAM JONES
Chairman of Board

JAMES E. CASEY, JR.
President

EILEEN T. LAWRENCE
Secretary, Treasurer