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Employers have right to drop insurance coverage

To the editor:

Much has been said and written about the recently passed National Health Care Bill, now commonly known as "Obamacare." Polls indicate that the majority of voters are against this bill for many reasons. As time passes, more and more problems are uncovered.

The latest pitfall involves millions of retirees and employees that are provided health insurance through their former or current employer. In a newsletter, "Seniors Advocate," recently published by ProtectSeniors.Org, some startling news was revealed about a punitive provision in Obamacare. According to Fortune magazine, this provision will negatively affect over 18 million retirees because it allows companies to drop their health insurance coverage and only have to pay a federal government penalty of \$2,000 per employee. AT&T projects that it spends \$2.4 billion per year providing health insurance coverage, but would only spend \$600 million if it chose to drop its health insurance coverage and pay the federal government penalty. That equates to an annual \$1.8 billion profit for AT&T.

The Democrat-controlled Congress has allowed retirees to be thrown under the proverbial bus by providing such an employer inducement to drop health care coverage. With control of Congress within their grasp in the upcoming midterm elections, the Republicans can repeal the Obamacare health care reform disaster.

Remember November. I know I will because I'm one of the 18 million retirees. And that's a lot of votes.

Jerome Starkey
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