



Contact: Stu Miller/ Victoria Carman

212-685-4600 Or

SMiller@Butlerassociates.com or VCarman@butlerassociates.com

Retirees Applaud Representative Jim Gerlach's Support of Protecting Retiree Earned Healthcare Benefits

Washington, DC – ProtectSeniors.Org, the premiere organization for retirees, applauds Representative Jim Gerlach for standing with retirees in protecting retiree earned healthcare benefits with his support of H.R. 1322, the Earned Retiree Healthcare Benefits Protection Act.

“Representative Gerlach’s support proves that Washington can work in a bi-partisan way to accomplish positive things,” stated Jim Casey, President, ProtectSeniors.Org.

H.R. 1322 amends the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) requiring sponsors of group health plans to restore health benefits previously taken away from plan participants to the extent such benefits were cancelled or altered after their retirement.

“Were not asking for handouts,” claimed Bill Jones, Chairman, ProtectSeniors.Org. “Were simply asking that the earned benefits we accrued over our years of service be provided. When we went to work for the company part of our overall compensation package included healthcare benefits in retirement,” added Jones.

Representative Gerlach joins a bi-partisan list of House members, which includes Representative Walter Jones (R-NC), Representative John Tierney (D-MA), Representative George Miller (D-CA), and Representative Rob Andrews (D-NJ), in his support of protecting retiree earned benefits.

“Retirees have been working on a win-win solution that protects their earned benefits, while at the same time ensuring that companies are not negatively impacted by continuing to meet their commitments to their retirees. The most important feature of this legislation is that there is no cost to the tax-payer, a key component of this bill and why I believe it will become law with the bi-partisan support from members like Jim Gerlach” stated Bob Larsen, Constituent of the 6th district of PA.

In a note to Bob Larsen, Representative Gerlach said “while I am not a Member of this Committee, please know that I support this bill and will vote for it should it come before the House for consideration during this session.”

“Representative Gerlach’s support of this critical legislation proves that Washington isn’t broken and members of both parties can work together on moving critical issue forward when the cause is right. We hope both Republican and Democratic leaders will now move this critical legislation to the floor of the House for a vote and show the public that they can work together for the good of the country,” concluded Jim Casey.

ProtectSeniors.Org is a Washington, D.C. based non-profit advocating for the health benefit protection of retirees from 392 different companies, 45 labor union locals, 98 municipal, state and federal retiree groups in addition to 16 associations.

###