



May 27, 2009

The Honorable Joe Courtney
United States House of Representatives
215 Canon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
United States House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representatives Courtney and Ros-Lehtinen:

AARP is pleased to endorse the Preexisting Condition Patient Protection Act of 2009 (H.R. 1558) to prohibit insurers from denying health insurance or delaying coverage for people with pre-existing health conditions.

Barring insurers from denying coverage to those who need it most is essential for giving all Americans access to affordable, quality coverage options. This is a critical component of the comprehensive health care reform effort that is AARP's top legislative priority this year.

Under current law, insurers routinely deny coverage altogether, or charge higher rates and/or exclude coverage for a health condition to people with pre-existing conditions. This helps explain why, according to the AARP Public Policy Institute, 7.1 million -- or 13% -- of Americans aged 50-64 are uninsured, as most people in this age range have one if not several pre-existing conditions. In fact, insurance industry data show that insurers reject between 17% and 28% of applicants aged 50-64.

We thank you for your leadership on this important marketplace reform, and look forward to working with you to enact this legislation as part of comprehensive health reform this year to ensure that all Americans have affordable, quality coverage options. If you have any questions, please call me or have your staff contact Paul Cotton of our Government Relations staff at 202-434-3770.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Sloane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David P. Sloane
Senior Vice President
Government Relations and Advocacy