



February 28th, 2013

The Honorable Phil Gingrey, M.D.
11th District, Georgia
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gingrey,

I am writing today on behalf of the 575,000 members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, to offer robust support for your bill, the Letting Insurance Benefit Everyone Regardless of Their Youth Act, or "LIBERTY Act." This important legislation addresses one of several flaws in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (PPACA), specifically a provision in the law that caps age-based insurance ratios at a level of 3:1.

Principally, AMAC is worried that adjustments to age-based payment ratios in PPACA could have a number of negative repercussions, and could lead to even higher health insurance premiums for older citizens.

More specifically, our concern is how such ratio caps – which essentially ask younger generations to shoulder a larger portion of health insurance costs – could push younger Americans out of the insurance pool entirely. In turn, this situation will lead to an older and more costly insurance pool, causing health insurance premiums to rise even higher for older Americans. With younger Americans facing poor economic prospects – and contending with mounting debt in other areas – there is a strong likelihood they would simply choose to opt out of health insurance. In fact, this problem will be exacerbated if the penalties for not purchasing health insurance are significantly less than the cost of insurance itself.

Additionally, the LIBERTY Act restores greater discretion and decision-making power to the states on the issue of health insurance payment ratios. Given the marked differences that exist across the country – from public health and average income to standards of living and age demographics – individual states should determine what works best regarding the administration of premium ratios, rather than a "one-size-fits-all" mandate from the Federal government.

At a core level, AMAC firmly believes that groups of American citizens should not be pitted against each other through the redefining of insurance payment structures. Not only are the ratio changes in PPACA a no-win for all Americans, but these adjustments assume that older citizens are comfortable with younger generations carrying a heavier health insurance cost burden. Simply, AMAC members – and most Mature Americans – do not wish to see their children and grandchildren saddled with increased financial obligations, especially those generated from abstract payment formulas emanating from Washington, DC.

Thanks to your leadership and diligent concern, AMAC is proud to support the LIBERTY Act, a forward-thinking, common-sense bill that represents a key first step in preventing the onset of arbitrary insurance structures and restoring discretion to the states on the critical financial mechanics of health insurance.

Sincerely,
Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC