

Congressman Joe Courtney (D-CT) and Senator John Rockefeller (D-WV) have introduced legislation to prohibit preexisting condition exclusions in group health plans and health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets. This includes live organ donation, and is something we have sought for some time. We are very pleased that this Act has been introduced. The Act is titled “*Preexisting Condition Patient Protection Act of 2009*”.

Your help is needed in getting others in Congress to co-sponsor this legislation so it can become law. Here is what you can do.

Find your two Senators by going to the following website:

<http://www.senate.gov/>

In the top right corner click on your state and then GO. Then choose the web form link to e-mail your Senator.

Fax or e-mail a letter to them urging their support. A sample letter is provided below. You can use this exact letter by adding information in the highlighted areas. Send one letter to your Representative, and one to each of your two Senators. Please make sure you include your name, address, title, and if possible put it on your company or organizations letterhead. There are committee meetings scheduled for (April 23 & 24) where this Act will be discussed. If possible please send your House of Representatives letter prior to these dates so we can provide Congressman Courtney evidence of widespread support for this Act which will help him advance it with other Representatives.

If you have any questions or need help finding your Congressional Members please contact Wade Delk, Director of Governmental Affairs, NATCO at 202-253-7862 or wdelk@goamp.com

Also, please e-mail Wade to let him know who you have sent letters to.

Sample Letters:

For the Senate:

(Date)

The Honorable (add Senator’s full name)

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC

Re: Preexisting Condition Patient Protection Act of 2009

Dear Senator (add Senator’s name)

(I or your organization) request that you support the Act introduced by Congressman Joe Courtney, and Senator John Rockefeller titled “Preexisting Condition Patient Protection Act of 2009”. This Act will prohibit preexisting condition exclusions in group health plans and health insurance coverage in the group and individual markets, including live organ donation. It will remove barriers to live organ donation by eliminating the fear of losing access to affordable private health care insurance when becoming a live organ donor.

There are currently over 109,000 people on the nation’s waiting lists for donor organs and over 6,000 Americans die each year waiting for a donated organ. We must do what we can to increase live organ donation. Pre-existing condition exclusions dramatically increase the cost of health insurance for these altruistic live donors, or have the impact of rendering the person uninsurable altogether. The fear of losing access to affordable health care insurance can be a major barrier to potential live organ donors when contemplating this gift of life.

Live organ donors are a very low health care risk. It is time that the federal government prohibits private health insurers and self-insured health plans from treating live organ donors as having a pre-existing condition. Removing live organ donation as a pre-existing condition is a necessary component of health care reform.

(you or your organizations name here) appreciate(s) your consideration of this request to support this Act that will prohibit live organ donation from being considered a preexisting conditions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Organization

Address