



CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE

SANTA CLARA COUNTY NEWS

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Senior Senator Bob Jaffee, Editor

NOTE: CSL proposals will be distributed to the State Legislators in December for review. The CSL Legislative committee will contact the State legislators for bills on the Top Priority Proposals.

CSL 2008 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

STATE TOP 10 PRIORITIES

AP-3 Senior Assembly Member Young: Nursing Home End-of-Life Privacy. Requires nursing homes to provide a private room for a resident who has been diagnosed as terminal.

AP-6 Senior Assembly Member Lucero: Prescription Expiration Date. Would require drug manufacturers to include a "best before" date on packaging.

Ap-7 Senior Assembly Member Lucero: Hearing Aid Availability and Cost. Requires hearing aids be made available for over-the counter sales and vendors be encouraged to submit a plan to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau.

AP-10 Senior Assembly Member Monck: Electronic Prescription Writing. Proposal institutes a State electronic prescription writing system.

Ap-13 Senior Assembly Member Feingold: Acute Care Hospital Infection Screening. Requires general acute care hospitals to administer weekly screenings of infections and to publicly disclose the number of patients developing infections.

AP-28 Senior Assembly Member Krohn: Elder Abuse Offender Registry. Requires the State to compile elder physical and financial abuse conviction details in an elder abuse offender registry, publicly accessible on the internet.

SP-1 Senior Senator Eaton: Affordable housing Shortage for Seniors. Requires action to address the senior affordable housing shortage revisions of zoning requirements and permit and impact fees.

SP-9 Senior Senator Griswold: Property Tax Exemptions. Increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors.

SP-15 Senior Senator Young: Expanded In Home Support Services. Expands IHSS to include support for activities in volunteer, social or other community functions.

SP-16 Senior Senator Wright: Oral Health in Nursing Homes. Requires that the DHS review the oral health component of nursing home treatment plans on a quarterly basis for proper completion and that appropriate referrals to dental professionals be made, with failures reported as abuse.

(OVER)

CSL 2008 TOP 4 FEDERAL PRIORITIES

AFP-2 Senior Assembly Members Shontz and Gould: Parkinson/s Prescription Renewal. Changes the renewal period for Parkinson's Medicare prescriptions from 30 to 180 days.

AFP-3 Senior Assembly Member Mitchell: Aircraft Portable oxygen Devices. Would require aircraft operators to allow passengers on oxygen therapy to carry on and operate portable oxygen devices.

AFP-5 Senior Assembly Member Lucero. Sale of Personal Information: Requires Business to obtain written permission from seniors prior to the sale of personal information.

SFP-11 Senior Senator Gehrig: Medicare. Podiatric Prevention Care. Expands Medicare coverage to include a co-pay for one annual podiatric care visit.

"UNBELIEVABLE" *-Excerpts from LOS ANGELES TIMES – Staff Writer Lisa Girion Dated November 9, 2007*

"One of the State's largest health insurers set goals and paid bonuses based in part on how many individual policyholders were dropped and how much money was saved.

Woodland Hills-based Health net Inc. avoided paying \$35.5 million medical expenses by rescinding about 1600 policies between 2000 and 2006. During that period, it paid its senior analyst in charge of cancellations more than \$20,000 in bonuses based in part on her meeting or exceeding annual targets for evoking policies, documents disclosed Thursday showed.

These cancellations have been the recent focus of intense scrutiny by lawmakers, state regulators and consumer advocates. Although these "rescissions" are only a small portion of the companies overall business, they typically leave sick patients with crushing medical bills and no way to obtain needed treatment.

The bonuses were disclosed at an arbitration hearing in a lawsuit brought by Patsy Bates, a Gardena hairdresser whose coverage was rescinded by Health Net in the middle of chemotherapy treatments for breast cancer. She is seeking \$6 million in compensation, plus damages."

CSL Editor's comment: The article continues with Net's version of the cancellation, claiming inaccurate health information on her application.

AARP COMMENTS

MEDICARE PART B in the last ten years, monthly premiums have increased as follows: 1998--\$43.80;--2000--\$66.50;--2006- \$88.50;--2008 - \$96.40, individuals with yearly income above \$82,000 (\$64.000 for couples filing a joint return) will pay more on a sliding scale of up to \$238.40 a month.

AARP CEO Bill Novelli, writes, "according to the American medical Association, if Congress doesn't act by the end of 2007, doctors will face a 10 percent cut. 60 percent of physicians say they will be forced to limit new Medicare patients they accept."

SENIOR LEGISLATORS SERVING SENIORS OF SANTA CLARA COUNTY

**Sr. Senator
Bob Jaffee
985-2457**

**Sr. Senator
Anne Mack
1-650) 493-7798**

**Sr. Assembly
Austin E. Lucero
293-6431**

**Sr. Assembly
Foster Lopes
984-3304**

**Sr. assembly
Denny Weisgerber
262-1776**