

Wayne Allard

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ALLARD INTRODUCES AMENDMENT TO PATIENTS' BILL OF RIGHTS LEGISLATION SAYS WITHOUT AMENDMENT MILLIONS COULD LOSE THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Senator Wayne Allard (R-CO) introduced Tuesday an amendment to the Patients' Bill of Rights, S. 1052, which would protect small businesses that employ 50 people or fewer from "frivolous" and "unwarranted" lawsuits resulting from their providing health insurance to their employees.

"Without this amendment to the patients' bill of rights, millions of Americans who work for small businesses will be at risk of losing their health insurance," Allard said. "Currently 72% of small employers provide health insurance to their employees. Forcing those small employers to be liable for health care decisions they do not even make, will result in millions of Americans who work for small businesses losing their health insurance."

Under the provisions currently written in S. 1052, small businesses that provide health insurance to their employees could be sued for unlimited economic and non-economic damages. Further, employers could be sued for up to \$5 million in punitive damages.

"We should be doing all we can to ensure that more people are getting the health care coverage they need and deserve, not the opposite," added Allard. "Unfortunately, the unintended consequence of the patients' bill of rights legislation before the U.S. Senate will be that more Americans will lose their health insurance. My amendment attempts to correct that oversight and protect the health insurance of millions of Americans who currently work for small employers."

The Allard Amendment will be voted on by the entire U.S. Senate on Wednesday.

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