

Senator Norma Champion 30th Senatorial District

Capitol Building, Room 320 Jefferson City, MO 65101

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Governor Signs Sen. Norma Champion's Bill to Protect Seniors

JEFFERSON CITY-Medicare supplement and long-term care insurance policyholders will soon be entitled to premium refunds after the governor today signed <u>SB 583</u>, sponsored by Sen. Norma Champion (R-Springfield).

Senate Bill 583 is a comprehensive insurance regulation measure that, among other provisions, entitles consumers with long-term care insurance policies and Medicare supplement policies to premium refunds as of Jan. 1, 2011.

Specifically, if a long-term care insurance or Medicare supplement policy issued in Missouri is canceled for any reason, the insurer must refund the unearned portion of any premium paid beyond the month when the cancellation is effective. Also, any refund must be returned to the policyholder within 20 days of the insurer receiving a cancellation notice, which may be written or electronic. Under the bill, long-term care insurance policies must contain notices that inform applicants they are entitled to a refund of unearned premiums if their policies are canceled for any reason.

"This bill will protect seniors and any Missourians who purchase a long-term care insurance policy," Sen. Champion said. "We needed to clearly state in Missouri law that consumers are entitled to refunds if they pay ahead and then end up canceling their policies. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support of the bill, and I'm pleased that the governor has signed this important legislation."

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