



June 9, 2016

The Honorable Susan Brooks
1505 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Brooks,

On behalf of the 1.3 million members of AMAC, the Association of Mature American Citizens, I am writing in support of the *State Age-Rating Flexibility Act*. This timely and crucial piece of legislation, aimed at raising the current age-based premium ratios from 3:1 to 5:1, has the potential to save all Americans significant money when choosing their healthcare plan. AMAC has been opposed to several mandates of the *Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act* (PPACA), including its one-size-fits-all approach to age-based premium ratios. This legislation will remedy nationwide uniformity and allow the states more freedom when determining premium rates.

Prior to *PPACA* implementation, 42 states had adopted 5:1 or higher age-based premium ratios—spurning innovative thinking and free-market approaches to control healthcare costs within their states. As mandated under *PPACA* regulation, an age-based premium rate of 3:1 was imposed on states unequipped and unprepared for such drastic changes to their healthcare premium calculating systems. In turn, these steep and rigid changes are forcing younger Americans to pay more for insurance than they have before. Relying on younger Americans to offset the costs of older Americans by paying higher premium rates is unacceptable.

Although capping the age-based premium ratio at 3:1 as opposed to 5:1 sounds good to many seniors, the economic repercussions of such caps on the American healthcare system are staggering. As premiums continue to rise for younger Americans, individuals are more likely to pay the end-of-year penalty for failing to be covered by insurance than to purchase costly, less-than-ideal insurance plans. Additionally, younger people are more likely to visit the emergency room and enroll in insurance only after a traumatic health event has occurred—once again causing increases in prices to the entire healthcare system. Lifting the age-based ratio from 3:1 to 5:1 has the potential to save all Americans money by allowing the respective states the necessary flexibility they need to adequately insure their residents.

As an organization committed to representing the interests of mature Americans and seniors, AMAC is dedicated to ensuring senior citizens' interests are protected. Simply put, AMAC members—and millions more seniors nationwide—do not wish to see their children and grandchildren paying higher prices for the rest of their lives so seniors can save a few bucks. Though there are many more things to be done to fix healthcare in this country, the *State Age-Rating Flexibility Act* is an important step forward in the right direction to reduce costs for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Dan Weber
President and Founder of AMAC