LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE

Thank you for requesting information from the National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care. Although insurance is not our primary mission, we frequently receive letters inquiring about the subject. We recommend that you thoroughly research any long-term care insurance policy prior to purchasing. Here are some pros and cons about long-term care insurance, and organizations you can contact for more information.

**PROS:**
- Helps protect assets
- Helps preserve inheritance for loved ones
- May avoid dependence on family or interference with their standard of living
- May preserve freedom to choose preferred long-term care services, such as choosing a nursing home
- Policy may cover more than nursing homes, such as home care, adult day care, assisted living, or other health care fees
- Helps avoid Medicaid premium will be treated as qualified medical expenses for tax purposes

**CONS:**
- Premiums/copayments may be unaffordable, especially for older people
- If your assets are low, you may soon qualify for Medicaid whether or not you have LTC Insurance
- If your assets and savings are high, paying out of pocket may be the best decision
- Other options may be preferable -- e.g., finding an additional source of income, such as reverse mortgages
- Long term care insurance coverage may be limited, yet it may improve over time
- General health insurance may cover some long-term care
- Policy payments may be below the real cost of

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

United Seniors Health Cooperative
1901 L Street, NW, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036
(888) 865-2903
www.homehealthcareagencies.com

Consumers Union
1101 17th St. NW #500
Washington, D.C. 20036
(202) 462-6262
www.consumersunion.org

Families USA
1225 New York Avenue NW
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20005
(202) 628-3030
www.familiesusa.org

For more information and resources on long-term care insurance, go to [www.theconsumervoice.org](http://www.theconsumervoice.org).

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (formerly NCCNHR) is a nonprofit organization founded in 1975 by Elma E. Holder to protect the rights, safety and dignity of American’s long-term care residents.

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