

Congresswoman Louise M. Slaughter, Chairwoman on the House Rules Committee, encouraged Republicans to join Democrats in standing up for consumers by revoking the anti-trust exemption enjoyed by the health insurance industry for the last 60 years. Slaughter, speaking at a press conference with Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Steny Hoyer and other House leaders, said that removing the exemption was the right thing to do.

“We’ve heard too many complaints about the health insurance industry engaging in price fixing, bid rigging, and other anti-consumer and anti-competitive practices,” said Slaughter. “This industry has enjoyed a big giveaway for far too long, and it’s about time that it plays by the same rules as everyone else.”

Slaughter is leading passage of the bill, H.R. 4626 the Health Insurance Industry Fair Compensation Act, through her Rules Committee. With its passage through Rules, it will be voted on tomorrow. Slaughter will speak on the House floor.

The Obama Administration expressed their strong support for the bill saying it would give American families and businesses, big and small, more control over their own health care choices by promoting greater insurance competition and will outlaw existing, anti-competitive health insurance practices like price fixing, bid rigging, and market allocation that drive up costs for all Americans.

Slaughter was joined at the press conference by health insurance whistleblower Wendell Potter, who has emerged as one of the leading critical voices of the industry during the last year. In addition, Slaughter said that the House Rules committee will meet this afternoon to debate the repeal of the McCarran Ferguson antitrust exemption. Slaughter will open the House debate on the issue tomorrow when the full bill is on the floor.

Wendell Potter worked for the health insurance giant CIGNA for 15 years. In August he appeared with Slaughter at a press conference in the Capitol where he said health insurance companies, "spend millions and millions of dollars to kill health care reform...they will say the things they think the public and lawmakers want to hear."

[Click here for video of Slaughter's press conference with Wendell Potter in August .](#)

[Click here for more information on Slaughter with Wendell Potter.](#)

Background on the H.R. 4626 – Health Insurance Industry Fair Competition Act

- Removes the blanket exemption from the antitrust laws provided under the McCarran-Ferguson Act of 1945 for health insurance companies;
- Provides that, with respect to enforcement of this McCarran-Ferguson Act repeal, the Federal Trade Commission may investigate for-profit and non-profit health insurers.