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CUB's 'Right Call' campaign visits Ottawa, report shows Illinois callers overpaying by \$1.5 billion

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Marking its 25th anniversary, the Citizens Utility Board is bringing its "Right Call Campaign" to Ottawa to show consumers how to cut their phone bills by hundreds of dollars a year.

CUB launched the campaign after the consumer group released a report showing Illinois callers are overpaying by about \$1.5 billion a year. Most consumers can enjoy significant savings, however, by following a few simple steps.

CUB's free "phone bill clinics" have shown consumers how to cut local and long-distance bills by an average of about \$200 a year. The next clinic, co-sponsored by the La Salle County Treasurer's Office, is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Oct. 2, at the east entrance of La Salle County's Etna Road Complex, 707 E. Etna Road.

"Most people are paying too much for phone service, but CUB's clinics can help you make deep cuts in your phone bills," CUB Executive Director David Kolata said in a press release. "CUB has been showing consumers how to save an average of about \$200 a year on their local and long-distance bills. Plus, we have a new online tool that has been teaching consumers how to slash cell-phone bills by another \$300 a year. You just can't get a free service like this anywhere else."

Consumers frequently complain they can't get reliable information from a phone company, which often throws a sales pitch for a more expensive plan. At CUB's clinics, however, citizens will receive helpful tips about:

- The CUB Cellphone Saver, a state-of-the-art online tool that automatically analyzes individual wireless bills. The Cellphone Saver has been showing consumers how to cut their cell-phone bills by an average of more than \$300 a year.
 - The CUB-designed Consumer's Choice local-calling plans AT&T is forced to offer under a legal settlement. Unlike AT&T's other plans, these plans are designed to save most consumers money.
 - Illinois' best long-distance plans, including how to get an automatic \$20 credit CUB negotiated. That amounts to nearly 11 hours of free calls.
 - Line-Backer, a costly — and optional — AT&T service most people don't need.
 - Attendees should bring their phone bills so CUB experts can analyze them and give tips on how to cut them.
- CUB is an Illinois' nonprofit utility watchdog organization. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, CL has saved consumers more than \$10 billion by helping to block rate hikes and secure refunds over the years. For more information, call CUB's Consumer Hotline at 800-669-5556 or visit www.citizensutilityboard.org.

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