



# Citizens Utility Board

309 W. Washington St., Suite 800, Chicago, IL 60606 **Phone** (312) 263-4282 **Toll Free** 800-669-5556 **Fax** (312) 263-4329

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

Nov. 10, 2009

**CONTACT:** Jim Chilsen

(o) 312-263-4282

(c) 312-513-1784

**CUB BRINGS “RIGHT CALL” CAMPAIGN TO REP. MENDOZA’S SENIOR HEALTH FAIR, CONSUMERS COULD SAVE HUNDREDS OF DOLLARS A YEAR**

In honor of its 25 years fighting for consumers, the Citizens Utility Board (CUB) is taking its “Right Call Campaign” to a senior health fair in Chicago to show consumers how to cut their phone bills by hundreds of dollars a year.

CUB’s campaign was launched earlier this year after the consumer group released a report showing that Illinois callers are overpaying by about \$1.5 billion a year—but most can enjoy significant savings by following a few simple steps. CUB’s free “phone-bill clinics” have shown consumers how to cut their local and long-distance bills by an average of about \$200 a year. The next clinic, at state Rep. Susana A. Mendoza’s senior health fair, is:

**11 a.m.-2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 21**

Rep. Mendoza's Senior Citizens Health Fair

Rauner Family YMCA

2700 S. Western Ave

Chicago, IL 60608

**Note:** Consumers can stop by CUB’s table with their bills. Bilingual phone-bill analysts will be available.

“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. “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 an 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 that they can’t get reliable information from the phone company, which often just throws them a sales pitch for a more expensive plan. At CUB’s clinics, however, citizens will receive helpful tips about:

*-more-*

\*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 wireless bills by an average of more than \$300 a year.

\*The CUB-designed Consumer's Choice local-calling plans that AT&T is forced to offer under a legal settlement. Unlike AT&T's other offers, 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 that most people don't need.

**Attendees should bring their phone bills so CUB experts can analyze them and give cost-cutting tips.**

CUB is Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog organization. Created by the Illinois Legislature, CUB opened its doors in 1984 to represent the interests of residential and small-business utility customers. Now celebrating its 25th anniversary, CUB 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 1-800-669-5556 or visit CUB's award-winning website, [www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org](http://www.CitizensUtilityBoard.org).

###