



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:
Dec. 3, 2009

CONTACT: Patrick Deignan
(o) 312-263-4282
(c) 847-636-0677

CUB WRAPS UP 25th ANNIVERSARY “RIGHT CALL” CAMPAIGN IN CHICAGO, GROUP HAS BEEN CUTTING PHONE BILLS BY \$200 A YEAR

The Citizens Utility Board (CUB) will hold its record-breaking 89th phone-bill clinic of the year in Chicago, wrapping up a 25th anniversary “Right Call” Campaign that has shown thousands of Illinois consumers how to cut their phone bills by hundreds of dollars a year.

CUB launched its campaign earlier this year after releasing a report showing that Illinois callers were overpaying by about \$1.5 billion a year—but could 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 is:

6 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 17
Columbia Explorers Academy—Cafeteria
4520 S. Kedzie
Chicago

CUB’s bilingual consumer counselors will be on hand to work one-on-one with Spanish-speaking consumers.

“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**.

###