



FreedomWorks Issues Brief

FreedomWorks is currently engaged in major campaigns to support personal retirement accounts for Social Security, to stop the asbestos trust fund proposed by Senator Arlen Specter, permanently repeal the death tax, and reform telecommunications franchise laws that will allow consumers to benefit from competition in the cable TV market.

Make sure to urge your **U.S. Senators and Representative** to support personal retirement accounts, deal with the asbestos litigation crisis by supporting strict medical criteria legislation while rejecting any attempt to create an asbestos trust fund, make permanent the repeal of the death tax, and support the modernization of telecommunications franchise laws.

Social Security:

Encourage your legislators to co-sponsor any bill that calls for personal retirement accounts that does not increase taxes and does not cut benefits on current or near retirees. Americans should be allowed to voluntarily put part of their payroll tax dollars into accounts that they can own, control, and pass on to their children. Senator DeMint introduced a plan, **S. 1302 (introduced in the House by Rep. McCrery (R-LA) as the GROW Act, HR 3304)**, which would use the Social Security surplus to create Personal Retirement Accounts (PRAs). This plan is a step in the right direction, **so make sure to urge your legislators to support S. 1302/HR 3304 and other bills that create personal accounts.**

Asbestos:

Tell your lawmakers to co-sponsor **HR 1957, the Asbestos Compensation Fairness Act of 2005**. This bill deals with the asbestos litigation crisis by utilizing objective medical criteria derived primarily from the American Medical Association's "Guides to the Evaluation of Physical Impairment." It protects taxpayer by not creating a new bureaucracy. "Trust funds" like Arlen Specter's do not do this, so encourage them to please vote **NO** on any plan that establishes an asbestos trust fund and instead support legislation that enacts strict medical criteria.

Death Tax:

Urge your members of Congress to support the **Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005—HR 8 in the House of Representatives and S. 420 in the Senate**. Without this important legislation, the estate tax will rise from the dead and haunt hard working Americans in 2011. The death tax is one of the most immoral levies because it makes death a taxable transaction and taxes income that has already been taxed at least once as income. Moreover, the death tax results in the dissolution of small businesses and family farms. The revenue gained from the death tax is far outweighed by lost jobs and liquidated companies.

Make sure they don't sign onto any "carve-out" proposals or similar measures that do not completely repeal the death tax. These exemptions will help fewer than one-in-twenty small businesses and will create even more litigation than the current death tax.

Telecom Reform:

Encourage your legislators to reform outdated telecommunications franchise laws that restrict competition in the cable market by **COSPONSORING the Video Choice Act of 2005—HR 3146 in the House of Representatives and S. 1349 in the Senate**. Current cable laws were established in a different time to prevent monopolies in yesterday's cable video service industry. Because new technologies allow phone, Internet, and possibly even power companies to offer video services, the old franchise laws do not prevent monopolies, but in fact bolster them by making it difficult for competitors to enter the market. Consumers deserve competition in the cable market and its consequent benefits of product choice and lower prices.