

WASHINGTON - Congressman Spencer Bachus today joined Congresswomen Wasserman Schultz (D-FL) and Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) and Congressmen Wexler (D-FL), Israel (D-NY) and Crowley (D-NY) at a press conference introducing the Life Insurance Fairness for Travelers Act.

Congressman Bachus made the following remarks:

"There are three reasons why I am supporting this legislation. First, centuries ago, when our insurance practices, procedures and contract laws were coming to fruition, international travel was inherently fraught with dangers and perils.

At that time, it was reasonable to think insurance companies could protect against predictable and even probable losses.

That's no longer the case.

People travel everywhere around the world with every expectation, with some obvious exceptions, that their journey will be safe. While these practices were acceptable in the past, they are no longer logical or acceptable," Congressman Bachus said.

"Second, it is in our national interest to encourage travel interchange between our citizens and citizens of other countries of the world. It's important we have this interchange with our allies because of our common interest and goals but it's also important we make new friends and develop new relationships and establish relationships on a person-to-person basis with countries we don't enjoy a close personal relationship.

Americans have been and will continue to be encouraged to sustain economic, educational, humanitarian and even social relationships with citizens of other countries and to promote democracy throughout the world.

To do this we must travel.

The very insurance companies who prohibit or charge a premium for this travel benefit, as do all Americans, from this travel," Bachus continued.

"Third and most importantly, we cannot allow terrorists, violent extremists or terror organizations to dictate our lifestyles, activities and our economic structure. If these murderous individuals and groups believe that they can increase the cost of travel by Americans to countries, particularly our allies and friends, this is a card they will not hesitate to play.

These economic sanctions levied by the insurance companies on our friends and allies not only punish those who stand with us in this global fight in this time of need, but energize and encourage our enemies who wage war against freedom loving people.

For this reason alone, after thoughtful deliberation but with due speed, this legislation should be adopted this calendar year," Bachus concluded.

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