

## Check your insurance bill...



**From** Natasha Marcus <natasha@natashamarcus.com>  
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Hi Steve,

I hear it all the time on the campaign trail when meeting North Carolinians: "My insurance bill just shot way up, and I haven't filed a claim or made a change to my policy!" To this, I have bad news and good news.

The bad news: the current Commissioner of Insurance is helping insurance companies charge you more. The deck is currently stacked against you and the person elected to protect you is bankrolled by the insurance companies.

But wait, there IS good news: we *can* do something to change this.

Over the past few years, insurance companies have used a loophole in the system to raise rates on homeowners and auto insurance called Consent to Rate (CTR). CTR was originally designed to allow insurance companies to cover properties with extremely high risk factors at rates higher than the maximum set by the Commissioner. Unfortunately, thanks to weak oversight by the sitting Insurance Commissioner, CTR use has become almost the norm. **Now, nearly half of insured homes in North Carolina are subject to CTR**, allowing insurance companies to charge **up to 250%** of the maximum approved homeowners' rate. And insurance companies are also using the CTR loophole to charge **more than the maximum for auto insurance**.

Want to know if you're stuck in the CTR loophole, paying more than you should? **Check your bill carefully**. On your homeowners or auto insurance bill, see if you have a notice in ALL CAPS saying that if you pay this bill, you are consenting to pay a rate that **"exceeds the premium based upon the approved rates in North Carolina."**

**Check your bill!**

Has your insurance company hit you with a **Consent to Rate notice**?

CTR notices are required to be reported clearly on your renewal documents.

**Rating Information\***

Please review and verify the information regarding your insured property. Please refer to the Important Notice (X72149) for additional coverage information. Contact us if you have any changes. The dwelling is of frame construction.

NOTICE: IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. §8-36-30(b1), THE PREMIUM BASED UPON THE APPROVED RATES IN NORTH CAROLINA FOR RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY INSURANCE COVERAGE APPLIED FOR WOULD BE \$596.80. OUR PREMIUM FOR THIS COVERAGE IS \$1493.00.

Your bill will be mailed separately. Before making a payment, please refer to your latest bill, which may include payment options and installment options. If you do not pay in full you will be charged an installment fee(s).

Premium Period: \$1,493.00

Consent to Rate isn't inherently a bad thing. Without a mechanism to allow exceptions to the maximum rate, some home and auto owners with especially risky properties would not have options. But what's happening in our state right now with CTR isn't normal. **Other states allow CTR, but insurance companies in NC are using it way more than anywhere else.** In fact, according to the most recent data, 44.6% of NC homeowner rates are inflated and an unknown number of NC auto policies are inflated due the CTR loophole.

To prevent this from happening and require insurance companies to treat consumers fairly, the Insurance Commissioner must set rates that allow **reasonable profits for the companies and reasonable prices for consumers.** With proper regulation, companies and consumers would both win, the maximum rates would be effective, and CTR would go back to being used only rarely (like in other states).

However, my opponent, **the incumbent Commissioner "Rate Hike Mike" Causey, has turned a blind eye to the overuse of CTR, once again ignoring responsibility and tipping the scales in favor of the insurance companies.** This imbalance has opened the door for insurance companies to take advantage of you. It's time to do something about it.

I'm running for Insurance Commissioner to even the scales and put an end to CTR manipulation. We need an Insurance Commissioner who will protect consumers from exploitation by maintaining a balance between reasonable profit and reasonable prices. Our state needs leaders who will stand up for working families, not big insurance companies. Mike Causey has shown what his priorities are, and it's not us. But we have a chance to change that. [Steve, every dollar you contribute helps us get one step closer to putting North Carolinians first — keeping insurance rates fair and ensuring families are protected>>>](#)

If you've saved your payment information with ActBlue Express, your donation will go through immediately:

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[Donate \\$250](#)

[Any Amount](#)

One more thing: if you read this email and found a consent to rate notice on your bill, will you let us know? Email [emma@natashamarcus.com](mailto:emma@natashamarcus.com) about what you discovered and we'll provide resources to help you lower your bill and share your cautionary tale with others.

At your service,



**P.S.** In my capacity as a State Senator, I filed a bill to rein in CTR, [SB 882](#) / Insurance Consumer Protection Study. The majority party refused to hear the bill.

**P.P.S.** If you prefer to donate by check, we love that too. Please make it payable to Friends of Natasha Marcus and mail it to PO Box 24, Davidson, NC 28036. If you prefer to donate online via NGP, [click here](#) to donate that way. Thank you!

Donate



Natasha Marcus is a three-term North Carolina State Senator, a former attorney, and the Democratic Nominee for North Carolina Commissioner of Insurance. During her tenure in the North Carolina Senate, Natasha Marcus has stood for people over ideology, individual freedoms, and smart investments in the state's future. She is running to be the next Commissioner of Insurance to serve the people of North Carolina who deserve affordable, quality insurance by restoring transparency, advocacy, and accountability to the office.

If you are a lobbyist, please disregard this email.

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