

## **Globe and Providence Journal articles quote GBLS attorneys**

### **Abuse cited as insurer halts sales to seniors**

by Jeffrey Krasner, *The Boston Globe*

BOSTON, July 26 - One of the nation's largest health insurers has stopped marketing an insurance plan to Massachusetts senior citizens with disabilities after state officials received dozens of complaints that the company was using abusive and misleading sales tactics.

UnitedHealth Group Inc. suspended marketing of a private Medicare plan, called the Evercare Special Needs Plan for People with Limited Income, earlier this week after meeting with officials from the state Medicaid and elder affairs offices. About 3,000 state residents receive coverage through the plan.

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Greater Boston Legal Services, which provides legal advice to people in need, has also heard complaints about Evercare.

"We've heard of cases where brokers have signed up people who don't speak English," said Donna McCormick, managing attorney for Greater Boston Legal Services. "They didn't tell seniors that there are networks, and they may not be able to see their own doctors. They promise that taxi rides to doctor's offices and bingo games are part of the program. Some said they were from Medicare itself and that it was going under and they needed to sign up."

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Read the rest of the story [here](#).

### **Lawyers for suspected illegal immigrants face challenges**

by Karen Lee Ziner, *Providence Journal*

PROVIDENCE, July 27 - Nearly two weeks after federal agents arrested dozens of suspected illegal immigrants who clean the state's courthouses, lawyers are still not sure where all of the detainees are being held.

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John Wilshire, lead attorney with Greater Boston Legal Services, said his office managed to prevent six detainees from being moved to Pennsylvania on Tuesday. The six had already been moved from the Essex County detention facility to the South Bay facility in Boston.

When lawyers from his office caught up with those detainees at South Bay, "they told us they had been prepared to go — their belongings were packaged to go to Pennsylvania," said Wilshire. The move was supposed to occur in the middle of the night, Wilshire said.

Wilshire's office filed bond motions for five of the six (another had sought a private attorney), "and then the next morning we called and they hadn't moved them. We were really happy." He expected all six will be

released.

Wilshire said a national fund established after last year's raid at the Michael Bianco Inc. factory in New Bedford — during which 362 people were initially detained — will help pay some of the bond money.

“The families have to come up with at least half the money,” said Wilshire, and the fund will pay the rest so the detainees “can have their day in court.” He said the bond amounts typically range from \$3,500 to \$5,000.

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Read the rest of the story [here](#).