When voters look at Senate candidates next year, America’s physicians will urge that this time their patients be the ones to administer a test...a test of how a candidate voted on a “Patients’ Bill of Rights.”

A real “Patients’ Bill of Rights” must contain the rights voters are calling out for, not what insurance executives are trying to buy.

Here’s the test. Americans will ask if a candidate voted for legislation that contains these four basic rights:

* Right to independent external appeal of health plan decisions
* Right to hold health plans accountable when their decisions harm patients
* Physicians decide what’s medically necessary
* Rights applies to all Americans

If the Senate passes a “Patients’ Bill of Rights” without these four elements, then it fails the test...the test voters will conduct next year.

And remember: It’s the final vote that counts.