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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Representative Kirkland

DATE: May 15, 2008

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsorship of Resolution

In the near future, I plan to introduce a resolution urging the Department of Public Welfare to cease and desist from circumventing the policy-making role of the General Assembly.

The Department of Public Welfare has unilaterally acted to prematurely terminate contracts and has otherwise acted to make fundamental changes in the managed care program serving medical assistance consumers. Effective January 1, 2009 they will forbid physical health managed care organizations from managing the use of prescription drugs by such consumers, and thereby deprives them of the benefits of comprehensive management of the prescription medications closely coordinated with their physical and behavioral health needs.

Such unanticipated and far-reaching changes to a health care system which benefits hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians will be made without any public comment or public hearings that would enable medical assistance consumers and health care providers to provide input or allow for an objective assessment.

It is vital that the Department of Public Welfare continue providing pharmacy and prescription drug services for enrollees in the Commonwealth's medical assistance managed care plans as they are currently being provided and discontinue actions to effectuate or facilitate changes in such services until a comprehensive analysis of the proposed change is completed, and full input is obtained from affected consumers, health care providers, and our legislature.

I am asking that you join me in co-sponsoring this resolution. If interested, please contact Satyn Geary at (717) 772-6955 or sgeary@pahouse.net.

Thank you