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May 21, 2008

Department of Public Welfare
Attn: Secretary Estelle Richman
333 Health & Welfare Building
P.O. Box 2675
Harrisburg, PA 17105

Dear Madam Secretary,

The Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus is deeply concerned about the status of the Commonwealth's Medicaid Physical Health Managed Care Organizations (MCOs).

- Carving out the pharmacy benefit management function from the MCOs stands to seriously fragment their fully integrated, outcome based, cost-effective and mature medical management approaches.
- They have been insufficiently funded in recent budget cycles placing them in a precarious financial position risking insolvency.
- They could be further destabilized by the proposed six-week delay in their capitation payment scheduled for the end of FY 2008-09.

These MCOs have served the Commonwealth well by lowering healthcare cost escalation, accomplishing superior health outcomes and producing much improved access to medical care for a very vulnerable population.

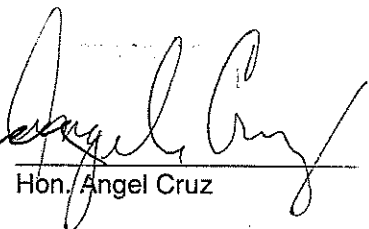
Destabilization of this medical delivery system seriously compromises the Commonwealth's entire Medicaid Physical Health program and the lives of our most fragile residents.

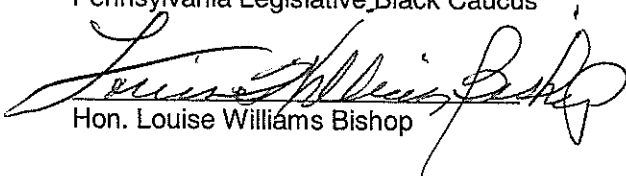
We strongly urge appropriate budgetary and operational support of the Commonwealth's Medicaid Physical Health MCOs.


Sincerely,


Rep. Thaddeus Kirkland, Chairman
Pennsylvania Legislative Black Caucus

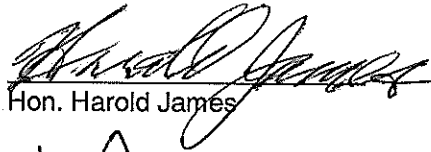

Hon. Thomas Blackwell

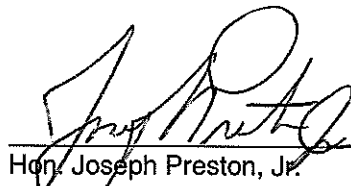

Hon. Angel Cruz


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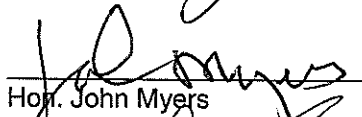

Hon. Dwight Evans


Hon. Vincent Hughes


Hon. Harold James

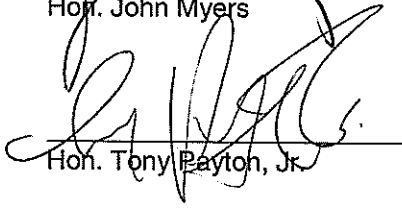

Hon. Joseph Preston, Jr.

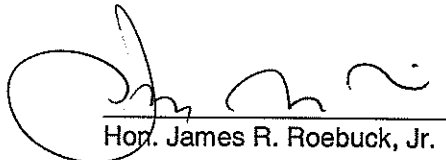

Hon. Shirley Kitchen

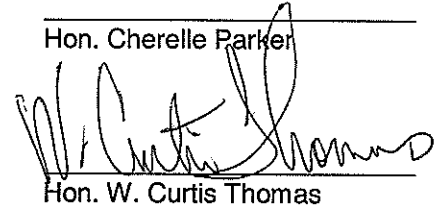

Hon. John Myers

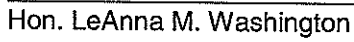

Hon. Frank Oliver

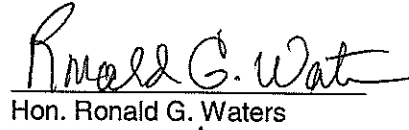

Hon. Cherelle Parker


Hon. Tony Payton, Jr.

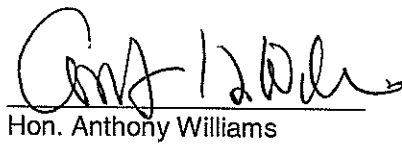

Hon. James R. Roebuck, Jr.

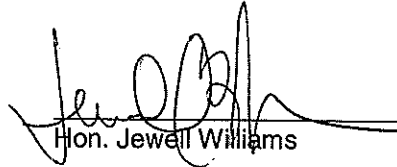

Hon. W. Curtis Thomas

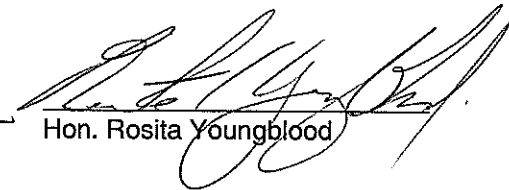

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