



National Business
Coalition on Health

July 3, 2008

The Honorable Edward Rendell
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Dear Governor Rendell,

On behalf of the sixty coalition members and over 10,000 employer members of the National Business Coalition on Health (NBCH), I want to register our strong support for the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4). For over two decades, PHC4 has been a fair and balanced voice for consumers, as well as employers and payers, so we are greatly concerned that the organization has yet to be reauthorized this year by the Pennsylvania state general assembly and therefore is in jeopardy of being permanently terminated.

NBCH and its member employer coalitions have a long history of value-based purchasing of health care. We firmly believe that health care reform through value-based purchasing is the most thoughtful, prospective way to control costs, expand accessibility and improve quality and care efficiency. In this regard, we rely on the leadership and direction provided by PHC4 and similarly-focused organizations on health care data collection and reporting, namely how to provide comparative information to consumers and purchasers about the most efficient and effective health care providers, as well as giving useful information to providers that they truly can use to identify opportunities to contain costs and improve the quality of care they deliver. In addition, PHC4 is a national leader for innovative patient safety and health care quality strategies. In fact, the organization's 2006 report on hospital-acquired conditions highlighted a problem of grave concern to our coalition member and their employers. The excellent work on costs related to hospital-acquired infections has driven significant policy change within the Leapfrog Group and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

The fact that this important state organization is in jeopardy should be of great concern to you and to your colleagues in the Pennsylvania state general assembly, particularly in terms of the message this inaction sends regarding the state's priorities and commitment to improving the quality, cost and accessibility of health care in Pennsylvania. We strongly urge you to act quickly to resolve this legislative stalemate and save the PHC4. Pennsylvania and the nation need it to continue to be a strong the voice for consumers, employers and payers.

Thank you for considering the concerns of NBCH about the future of PHC4 and please feel free to contact me directly at awebber@nbch.org or 202.775.9300 if there is anything further that NBCH can do to help.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andrew Webber".

President and Chief Executive Officer
National Business Coalition on Health

cc:

Representative Todd Eachus

Senator Dominic Pileggi