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JAN 26 2011

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TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Jane C. Orie
Senator Patrick M. Brown

DATE: January 25, 2011

SUBJECT: Alternative Benefit Packages for Medicaid

We will soon be reintroducing **SB 995**, which would amend the Public Welfare Code by allowing Medical Assistance Physical Health Manage Care Organizations (MA PH MCOs) to offer what is referred to as benchmark benefit packages or bench-mark equivalent packages for certain populations.

Alternative benefit packages -- which are allowed for under the federal Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, Section 1937 -- aim to achieve savings without putting individuals at risk. This section provides states with greater flexible to define the scope of covered services.

SB 995 was cosponsored by Senators Orie, Browne, Earll, Pileggi, Rafferty, Waugh, D. White and M. White.

If you are interested in cosponsoring this legislation, please contact Kacie Morrell, in Sen. Orie's Office, at 787-6538 or kmorrell@pasen.gov.

JCO/ns