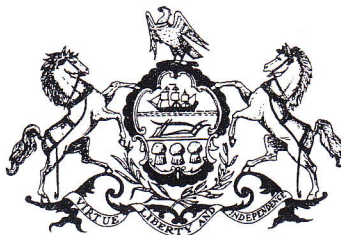


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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL HOUSE MEMEBERS

FROM: Rep. Mark Longietti

DATE: February 21, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship of Legislation
Healthcare coverage for children up to age 30

In the near future, I plan to re-introduce legislation aimed at giving the option of retaining health insurance coverage for their children under certain conditions.

In 2009, we passed legislation to make health insurance available to adult children, up to age 30, on their parent's health insurance plan, if they meet certain eligibility requirements. This legislation, which was signed into law by Governor Rendell as Act 4 of 2009, imposed no cost on employers as the legislation clearly states that the insurance is provided at "the insured employe's (parent's) expense." However, Act 4 requires that the policyholder, which is typically the employer, agree to add the adult child to the health insurance plan. Unfortunately, since this law took effect, I am aware of no employer that has agreed to add an adult child to their plan and I am aware of many employers that have refused the request of parents to add their adult children to their plan. In my view, Act 4, in its present state, has become a nullity and needs to be amended.

Therefore, I invite your co-sponsorship of legislation to amend Act 4 of 2009 so that health insurance will be made available to adult children, up to age 30, upon meeting the same eligibility requirements in current law, but at the "option of the policyholder's insured employe" (the parent) and not at the "option of the policyholder" (the employer). The cost of adding an adult child to the health insurance plan will remain the obligation of the employe (parent). If we fail to adopt this amendment, I believe that there will be no real opportunity to extend such health insurance coverage to adult children, up to age 30, and too many young people who are pursuing advanced degrees or who have initial jobs that do not provide health benefits, will continue to go without health insurance.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact my assistant, Bob Brownawell at 717-772-4035 or rbrownaw@pahouse.net.