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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Mark B. Cohen, Chair
Human Services Committee

Handwritten signature of Mark B. Cohen in black ink.

DATE: May 13, 2011

RE: Co-sponsorship of Resolution Opposing Ryan Health Care Plan

Your co-sponsorship is requested for a resolution stating our objections to Rep. Paul Ryan's health care plan. We as House members need to show our opposition to this plan that results in more low and middle-income people not having health insurance.

The resolution is as follows:

Whereas the Congressional Budget Office finds that premium support payments have higher administrative costs and are more subject to inflationary pressures than Medicare.

Whereas, the Congressional Budget Office estimates costs to premium support payment enrollees versus Medicare would find premium support program becoming increasingly costlier over time, reaching double the costs to enrollees by 2022.

Whereas, many enrolling in premium support payments would later find them unaffordable and would thus be without health insurance,

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Whereas placing Medicare into allotments or block grants may lead to states being unable to pay for health care as the need for health care increases during the block grant period,

Whereas the Kaiser Family Foundation projects that the costs of premium support payments and reduced funds through placing Medicare into allotments or block grants could displace as many as 44 million from Medicare or any health insurance,

Whereas, under premium support payments, Medicare would probably have a higher percent of higher risk patients as healthier patients opting out of Medicare.

Whereas, the loss of premium support enrollees would increase the costs to those remaining in Medicare.

Whereas the historic success of Medicare in allowing low income people access to health care would be diminished by premium support payments.

Therefore, be it resolved that Congress disapprove any plan to create premium support payments for purchasing private health insurance instead of qualifying for Medicare as this will lead to fewer Americans being able to obtain health insurance, and

Be it resolved Congress oppose any proposal to place Medicare into allotments or block grants that would create insufficient funds to pay health care costs of Medicare patients, and

Be it resolved, Congress is urged to sufficiently fund Medicare.

Please contact Linda Huntington in my office at lhunting@pahouse.net or at 787-3085 in order to co-sponsor this resolution.