

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 19, 2011

To: All House Members

From: Representative Tony DeLuca

Subject: Co-sponsorship of Legislation: Protecting Vulnerable Insured Groups

In the near future, I will be introducing a resolution to request further protection for individuals enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Medicaid, and Medicare during disputes between providers and insurers.

Currently, Highmark Inc. and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center are in contractual deadlock over Highmark's potential purchase of a health system. The current contract between the region's largest health insurer (Highmark) and the largest hospital system (UPMC) expires on June 30, 2012. Both organizations have previously stated that, in some fashion, only people with private insurance would be affected with the expiration of the agreement. Enrollees in CHIP, Medicare, and Medicaid would continue to have full access to UPMC facilities and doctors.

My resolution will urge Highmark and UPMC to publicly commit to open and continued access for CHIP, Medicaid, and Medicare recipients at in network rates with a pledge to remain steadfast in their commitment.

If you would like to cosponsor this important resolution and protect our most vulnerable citizens, please contact Stacia Longenecker at slongene@pahouse.net or via phone 787-4437.