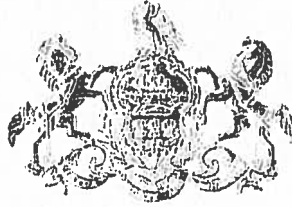


State Senator
Don White
41st Senatorial District



Senate of Pennsylvania

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TO: All Senators

FROM: Senator Don White *DW*

DATE: November 1, 2011

RE: Co-Sponsorship: Legislation amending Act 159 of 1996 – Small Group Health Insurance Rate Review

NOV 01 2011

I invite you to co-sponsor legislation I will introduce amending Act 159 of 1996, known as the Accident and Health Filing Reform Act.

This legislation will provide authority to the Pennsylvania Insurance Department to review rate increase filings for the small group health insurance market. The Department does not currently have this statutory authority, and, as of September 1 2011, the federal Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has stepped in to review any small group health insurance rate increases over ten percent.

In order to bring consistency and continuity to the regulation of Pennsylvania's health insurance rates, legislation is necessary to provide the Department with this important authority. Additionally, this legislation would enable Pennsylvania's ability to maintain its own control in a time of uncertainty in the health insurance market place as opposed to ceding its authority to the federal government.

This draft has been vetted with the Insurance Department, stakeholders, and the administration. Furthermore, HHS has signed off on the proposed draft that the provisions it contains pass muster for the federal government to allow Pennsylvania to gain authority of overseeing these proposed rate increases.

If you would like to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Allison Dutrey at 7-8724 or adutrey@pasen.gov.

Thank you.