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House of Representatives
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MEMORANDUM

TO: All Members of the House of Representatives
FROM: Representative Tony Payton
DATE: June 20, 2012
SUBJECT: Co-sponsorship Memo – Family and Business Health Care Security Act

In the near future, I plan to introduce legislation establishing the Family and Business Health Care Security Act as a companion measure to Senator Ferlo's SB 400, except for one change. Under SB 400, the Governor would appoint members to the board. My legislation would call for the Governor to appoint the chair of the board, and members of the General Assembly to appoint the remaining members pursuant to the guidelines in the legislation. The total number of appointees would also decrease from 12 under SB 400 to 11 with my legislation.

The Family and Business Health Care Security Act is rooted in the efforts of a nonpartisan group called *Healthcare 4 All of PA*, which consists of health professionals and business people from across the Commonwealth. The legislation establishes a single-payer system for the delivery of health care and is committed to providing for the following:

- Quality medical, dental and mental health care for every Pennsylvanian.
- Establishment of an efficient Health Care Trust owned and controlled by the people of Pennsylvania as the single payer for health care services.
- Relieving employers from the responsibility of selecting, pricing, and administering health insurance.
- Elimination of all traditional health insurance premiums, co-pays and deductibles.
- Support for active volunteer firefighters and emergency responders through a \$1,000 per year tax rebate.
- Full funding of prescription drugs while leveraging the buying power of 12 million of Pennsylvanians to lower the cost.

- Fully funding educational initiatives to establish a culture of wellness among citizens, designed to shrink the need for health care and thus reduce the expense while preserving full access.
- Support for the swift transition to a secure electronic medical record system to reduce costs and errors.
- Full funding for substance abuse treatment.
- A centralized data collection and analysis approach that will identify physicians and hospitals with patterns of preventable errors leading to prompt remedial action designed to eliminate future occurrences.
- Preservation of the private practice of medicine and the right of the patient to choose their doctor and hospital.
- Re-establishment of the certificate of need process to prevent wasteful over-capacity while at the same time encouraging the establishment of state-of-the-art facilities where they are needed but not currently available.
- Assuring that every Pennsylvanian in need of long-term care can qualify for assistance without having to spend themselves into poverty.
- Sparring Pennsylvanians the humiliation of personal bankruptcy due to family health care expenses.

This legislation would not replace Medicare, so some of the most costly cases will continue to be covered federally. Pennsylvania will maintain responsibility for costs incurred by the elderly and disabled not covered by Medicare.

Funding to support the Family and Business Health Care Security Act would come from a dedicated 10 percent employer tax paid on payroll and a three percent personal income tax. These revenues, when added to existing streams from Pennsylvania's share of Medicaid funding, tobacco settlement funds, cigarette taxes, lottery, and interest earned on Health Care Trust funds, would total approximately \$46 billion.

If you would like to co-sponsor this important initiative, please contact my Legislative Assistant, Tajuanna Franklin at 787-1354 or tfrankli@pahouse.net .

Thank you.