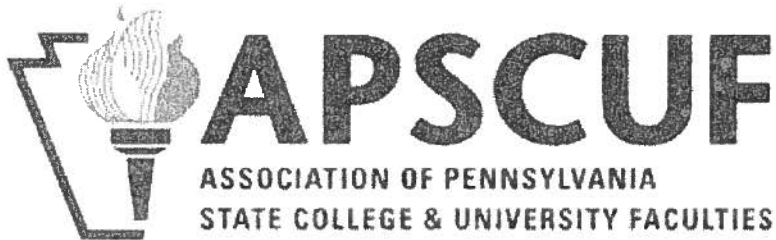


Gina Strine

From: Ty Marks <tmarks@apscuf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 11:21 AM
Subject: FW: Position of Support on House Bill 1621 and House Bill 1622

Importance: High



December 13, 2013

Majority Chairman Matt Baker
House Health Committee
108 Ryan Office Building
Harrisburg, Pa 17120

Minority Chairman Flo Fabrizio
House Health Committee
200 Irvis Office Building
Harrisburg, Pa 17120

Dear Chairmen,

RE: Position of Support on House Bill 1621 and House Bill 1622

On behalf of the nearly 6,000 members of the Association of Pennsylvania State College and University Faculties (APSCUF), we write to express **our support of HB 1621 and HB 1622**, introduced by Representative Jim Christiana. APSCUF has taken a position of support on the legislation and encourages the House Health Committee to pass the bills. HB 1621 and HB 1622 require hospitals operating as part of an integrated delivery network to contract with any health insurance carrier that is willing to enter into a contract. The legislation prohibits those hospitals to engage in business practices that impede the availability of quality health care and restrict access to facilities for services. The legislation also provides that a hospital-owned physician practice that is part of an integrated delivery network shall assure accountability and accessibility of adequate health care services to members of a health insurance carrier, which will allow for access to quality care and continuity of health care services.

APSCUF members, especially those employed at California, Indiana, Clarion, and Slippery Rock Universities, are worried about access to their health care options if an agreement is not finalized between UPMC and Highmark by the end of 2014. Over 90 percent of our membership could be refused care in a UPMC hospital or an affiliated physician's office if the legislation is not acted upon or a contract is not settled. In 2010, there were over 4,000 visits by PASSHE employees to UPMC providers. Our membership urges the legislature to seriously consider this language or work with Highmark and UPMC to establish a contract resolution.

APSCUF appreciates the House Health Committee reviewing this important legislation through a hearing process. We look forward to all parties providing additional information on the subject.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Any additional questions may be addressed to Laura Saccente, Director of Governmental Relations, at [\(717\) 645-3466](tel:717-645-3466) or lsaccente@apscuf.org.

Sincerely,



Steve Hicks
APSCUF President

Cc: Members of House Health Committee
Representative Jim Christiana
Representative Dan Frankel

Ms. Ty Marks

Administrative Assistant for APSCUF Committees

Association of Pennsylvania State College & University Faculties (APSCUF)

319 North Front Street

Harrisburg, PA 17101

P 717 236 7486 Ext. 3024

TF 800 932 0587

F 717 236 1883

marks@apscuf.org | www.apscuf.org

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/apscuf>

Facebook: <http://facebook.com/apscuf>