
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 242 Session of
2007

INTRODUCED BY CASORIO, BELFANTI, BIANCUCCI, CALTAGIRONE,
FABRIZIO, FRANKEL, GEIST, GERGELY, GIBBONS, GINGRICH,
GOODMAN, KENNEY, KIRKLAND, KORTZ, KOTIK, PETRARCA, READSHAW,
REICHLEY, ROSS, SCAVELLO, SOLOBAY, WOJNAROSKI AND SONNEY,
APRIL 23, 2007

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
APRIL 23, 2007

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the Governor and the Secretary of Public Welfare to cease
2 and desist from any action that furthers the planned move
3 from a voluntary managed care choice to a mandated fee-for-
4 service system for medical assistance recipients.

5 WHEREAS, For more than 20 years, the Commonwealth has
6 utilized a managed care model as the foundation for providing
7 access to quality health care for medical assistance consumers;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, The medical assistance managed care program was
10 established to enable medical assistance consumers to have a
11 "medical home," ensuring coordination and continuity of care as
12 well as access to physicians and other providers; and

13 WHEREAS, Medical assistance consumers who enrolled in managed
14 care programs instead of fee-for-service programs are afforded
15 the opportunity for preventative care and routine tests to
16 detect conditions that often result in far more costly medical
17 services; and

1 WHEREAS, In 26 counties in this Commonwealth, approximately
2 71,000 Pennsylvanians are enrolled in voluntary medical
3 assistance managed care plans through which they receive
4 considerable physical health benefits; and

5 WHEREAS, The voluntary medical assistance managed care plans
6 are administered by managed care organizations that rank in the
7 top 20 among all Medicaid health plans in the United States
8 according to a study conducted by U.S. News & World Report and
9 the National Committee for Quality Assurance; and

10 WHEREAS, Managed care organizations are responsible for
11 managing the physical health services, including pharmaceutical
12 and dental services, of participating consumers; and

13 WHEREAS, Managed care organizations have experience and
14 expertise in management of certain chronic diseases as well as
15 management of complex medical cases; and

16 WHEREAS, The Secretary of Public Welfare has determined that
17 consumers participating in voluntary managed care programs will
18 be transitioned to Access Plus, the fee-for-service program
19 established by the department and administered by one vendor, as
20 of July 1, 2007; and

21 WHEREAS, This determination was made without benefit of
22 comment from the public, especially from those consumers or
23 providers directly impacted by the transition; and

24 WHEREAS, Access Plus has been in operation for approximately
25 two years without any independent review and analysis of its
26 impact on the care of medical assistance consumers, coordination
27 with providers or cost effectiveness; and

28 WHEREAS, Some providers have stated that they will refuse to
29 participate in Access Plus if voluntary managed care is
30 eliminated; and

1 WHEREAS, Consumers currently enrolled in voluntary managed
2 care plans may be forced to find new physicians and other
3 providers from what will be a considerably smaller network,
4 thereby compromising the health of Pennsylvania's most
5 vulnerable citizens; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives strongly urges
7 the Governor and the Secretary of Public Welfare to cease and
8 desist from any action that furthers the planned move from a
9 voluntary managed care choice to a mandated fee-for-service
10 system for medical assistance consumers; and be it further

11 RESOLVED, That a comprehensive study and analysis, conducted
12 by an independent entity, be undertaken and completed before a
13 final decision is made; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of Public Welfare continue the
15 voluntary managed care program as it has been conducted until
16 the independent study and analysis is completed; and be it
17 further

18 RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to
19 the Governor and to the Secretary of Public Welfare.