Dear Senator or Representative _____________

I am writing at the request, and as the chair, of the Commonwealth Health Care Reform Implementation Advisory Committee. This Advisory Committee was created by Executive Order to advise the Governor and his administration on how to best implement the federal health care reform legislation in Pennsylvania. Committee membership is composed of representatives of each legislative caucus of the General Assembly and diverse stakeholders. (A list of Advisory Committee members is attached.)

Under the Patient Protection and Affordability Act, states are given the option of creating an exchange which provides easy to understand information on cost and quality comparisons of health insurance plans and through which individuals and small employers can purchase health care coverage. If a state does not elect to operate an exchange, the federal government will do so for the state.

At the first meeting of the committee in June, the committee had the opportunity to meet with Jon Kingsdale, former Director of the Massachusetts Insurance Exchange, to discuss the lessons learned from their experience. Mr. Kingsdale has since created a Health Benefit Exchange Implementation Timeline for State Policymakers, which is attached. As you may know, for Pennsylvania to have its own health insurance exchange, instead of having the federal government create one, the General Assembly will have to pass legislation next calendar year. We hope you will find this suggested timeline helpful in considering that option.

Other resource information from the committee’s meetings and meeting summaries can be found at http://www.gohcr.state.pa.us/implementation/index.htm

Sincerely,

Rosemarie Greco
Chair, Commonwealth Health Care Reform Implementation Advisory Committee

Attachments