



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

MEMORANDUM

April 13, 2011

To: All House Members

From: Representative John Bear
Representative Bryan Cutler

RE: Co-sponsorship – **Physician Credentialing**

In the very near future, we will be introducing legislation that seeks to streamline and improve the physician credentialing process in the Commonwealth.

Currently, the physician credentialing process can take many months to complete. The lag time between the time the physician submits his/her initial credentialing application to an insurer until the time where the physician receives a final determination from the insurer can be incredibly disruptive to both the physician's practice as well as to the patients the practice seeks to treat.

In addition to the administrative and financial burdens this process places on physicians seeking to be credentialed, it can be incredibly burdensome on a health care practice bringing a new physician into a community within the state, as well as increase the out-of-pocket expenses that consumers pay in the meantime.

Our legislation will, among other things, require all health insurers to:

- Provide the physician with a status of their application within five days of receiving the physician's initial credentialing application;
- Reimburse the physician during the credentialing process; and
- Accept the universal credentialing process through the Council for Affordable Quality Healthcare (CAQH).

If you wish to cosponsor this legislation, please contact Jennifer at jwilliam@pahousegop.com or 783-6424.

BC/jjw