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NEWS

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**PHCA Applauds Rendell Effort to Move Med Mal Reforms Forward**  
*PHCA President Reiterates That Protecting Seniors' Access to Quality Long Term Care Must be Part of Broader Solution; Constitutional Amendment Still Necessary*

Harrisburg, PA – The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) today applauded Governor Ed Rendell's new efforts to bring about medical malpractice lawsuit reforms, and said the new initiatives are emblematic of the fact more must be done to protect patients' access to quality health care.

“We are pleased the Governor is cognizant that we must continue moving forward on multiple fronts if we are to protect Pennsylvanians' access to high quality healthcare,” stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President and CEO of PHCA. “PHCA believes Governor Rendell's broad based mediation initiatives, in particular, can be very helpful in forging a constructive dialogue amongst all stakeholders.”

The PHCA President and CEO reiterated his position that long term care must be covered as part of any broader malpractice reform package, and also said the constitutional amendment process being pursued by the General Assembly should continue.

Rosenbloom said the relatively modest loss experience of long term care providers does not warrant the dramatic increases in insurance costs: 250% increases in primary rates from 1996 to 2000; annual increases in primary rates of as much as 500% in 2001, 2002 and 2003; and, CAT Fund/MCare Fund assessment increases of 100% or more in many regions of the Commonwealth in 2002 and 2003.

“The good news for Pennsylvanians is that Governor Rendell and the General Assembly are increasingly focused on serious measures to deal with this worsening health care crisis,” Rosenbloom said. “But we must not forget that seniors throughout the Commonwealth have their own specific problems and needs related to accessing quality long term care.”

*PHCA is a statewide membership services organization representing more than 325 long-term care and senior service providers throughout the Commonwealth. Additional information about PHCA is available by calling 717-221-1800 or visiting [www.phca.org](http://www.phca.org).*

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