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NEWS

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Resolution on Provider Assessment Underscores Stakes for PA Seniors

HR 753 Voted out of House Health and Human Services Committee Today;

Care Quality of Commonwealth's Most Vulnerable Frail, Elderly, Disabled Jeopardized

Harrisburg, PA -- The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) today said a Resolution, which was voted out of the House Health and Human Services Committee, Chaired by Rep. George Kenney (R-Montgomery), underscores the importance of securing \$344 million in supplemental Medicaid funding to ensure Pennsylvania's most vulnerable population of frail, elderly and disabled continue to receive quality long term care.

"It is essential that every member of the House Health and Human Services Committee – and every member of the General Assembly – understand the consequences faced by our most vulnerable seniors if Washington fails to provide the \$344 million Pennsylvania needs and deserves to maintain and protect quality nursing home care," stated Alan G. Rosenbloom, President and CEO of PHCA.

HR 753, sponsored by Rep. Scott Boyd (R-Lancaster), urges the federal entity responsible for releasing the funds, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), to approve Pennsylvania's assessment.

PHCA, SEIU and other advocacy organizations have warned for months that failure by CMS to approve and release these funds on a timely basis could precipitate draconian Medical Assistance (MA) benefit cuts, severe staff reductions, care access problems and even facility closures.

"We have worked long and hard with Governor Rendell, the General Assembly and many others to help ensure vital federal funds to protect our most vulnerable seniors are promptly provided, and the unfortunate delay from Washington is placing those most in need at risk," continued Rosenbloom.

"Pennsylvania cannot afford MA cuts that derail providers' efforts to invest in our increasingly over-burdened long term care system, and to ensure retirees receive the best care our state has to offer," he continued. "These funds are needed immediately to ensure our caregivers can continue providing high quality nursing home care, and to help ensure we have the staff and resources necessary to do so."

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.

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