



NEWS

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PHCA: Based on the Facts, Long Term Care Should Also Be Included in MCare Abatement Extension

Harrisburg, PA – Commenting on passage in the House of legislation to extend MCare abatement for an additional two years in order help physicians pay escalating medical liability insurance costs, the Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) said nursing homes and other long term care providers should receive the same protection as any other provider group.

“The well-being of Pennsylvania’s frail, elderly and disabled -- as well as local providers who care for them -- are placed at substantial risk by skyrocketing insurance premium increases, and are coping with the same problems now being experienced by physicians,” said PHCA President and CEO Alan G. Rosenbloom.

On a statewide basis, Rosenbloom said that, on average, nursing homes have seen their MCARE surcharges increase from 20% to 125% each year from 2000 through 2003 -- despite the fact that during the nearly 30 year history of the state-run Fund, nursing homes have paid nearly \$50 million in surcharges and assessments while receiving just \$3 million or less back in claims.

“The serious care access problem created by the malpractice insurance crisis is just as prevalent to long term care as it is to others – and we urge legislators to consider this fact as the bill moves to the Senate,” Rosenbloom concluded.

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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