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# NEWS

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## **PHCA Lauds Goals of Rendell “Prescription for Pennsylvania” Health Initiative**

*Expanded Care Access to All Citizens Cannot Come at Expense of PA Seniors’ Growing Needs*

**Harrisburg, PA** – Calling Governor Ed Rendell’s “Prescription for Pennsylvania” health care initiative, “a sweeping proposal that has the potential to dramatically improve care quality and reduce costs,” the President and CEO of the Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) applauded the overall intent and objective of the plan, and said he looks forward to seeing more details in regard to funding when the Governor presents his budget.

“Governor Rendell has put forward a sweeping proposal that has the potential to dramatically improve care quality and reduce costs, and lawmakers of both parties as well as the public at large should keep an open mind as to how the Commonwealth can go about achieving his high priority health policy objectives,” stated Stuart H. Shapiro, M.D., President and CEO of PHCA.

Noting that states are beginning to step up to assume the primary leadership role to expand Americans’ access to quality health care services, Dr. Shapiro praised Rendell for moving forward with a plan for the Commonwealth.

“I look forward to participating in constructive discussions with the Governor, the General Assembly, other providers, and certainly consumers on both the many benefits offered by this new health care plan, as well as some of the possible concerns,” Dr. Shapiro continued. “While the Governor’s plan offers a variety of benefits to employers, employee and citizen alike, we want to ensure funding stability for Pennsylvania’s entire long term care continuum is not compromised in any way.”

Pennsylvania ranks third nationally in percent of population over 65, and second over age 85, he observed, and the challenge for the Rendell Administration and the Pennsylvania Legislature in 2007 is to continue facilitating seniors’ ability to access the care setting that best suits their individual need, while achieving the funding levels necessary to ensure maximum access to quality care for all Pennsylvanians.

“The care needs of the Commonwealth’s most vulnerable seniors are growing dramatically, and we look forward to seeing additional details of the Governor’s plan including how he will ensure that the funding stability of the entire long term care continuum is not compromised in a well meaning effort to expand health care eligibility and coverage for a broader population,” Dr. Shapiro concluded.

*PHCA is a statewide membership services organization representing approximately 300 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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