



July 11, 2017

Dear Representative,

The Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association (RCPA) is **opposed to HB59**. In the bill, there are many provisions that would have a negative impact on the families that our members serve. One such provision would have a negative impact on children with disabilities, who currently qualify for Medical Assistance, often referred to as loophole kids. Loophole kids often come from homes with one or two working parents, and these families generally have private healthcare insurance coverage and are paying health insurance premiums. While we appreciate the House's effort to limit its negative impact on families, HB59's language raising premiums for families above 1000% of poverty level, based on CHIP sliding scale still has issues.

1. Technically, It is not a "premium" for "insurance" since "insurance" is designed to provide financial assistance for injuries, illnesses or disabilities that have not occurred and, by definition, PH-95 applies only to children who already have incurred a disability. HB59 may refer to it as a "premium", but it is really a tax that violates the Uniformity Clause of the Pennsylvania Constitution. It also likely violates the provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act;
2. In 2008 the autism community through its own efforts passed private insurance reform which, if implemented correctly in succeeding years, would have produced more savings for Medical Assistance than any "premium" would recoup; and
3. 60% of PH-95 dollars statewide are spent to provide behavioral services in classrooms. If these services come with a cost to parents, AND they are necessary under IDEA for the student to receive education services in the classroom, then the parents will be incentivized to try to sue their districts to recover these costs.

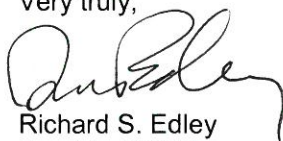
Additionally, the following are examples of other areas of concern that we believe need additional discussion and input:

1. Requiring a "coordinated care pilot" in a Medicaid region of PA requiring "evidence based decisions" for all behavioral and physical health care;
2. Requiring DHS to seek a CMS waiver to reduce financial burden to PA before seeking a supplemental from legislature;
3. Requiring DHS to seek CMS waiver to allow work requirements for Medicaid.

On behalf of our members, RCPA respectfully would recommend that any of these types of proposals that would affect the healthcare benefits of Pennsylvania residents should be discussed in a public hearing or stakeholder group meetings; therefore without this type of public input, **our association would oppose HB59**.

RCPA is a willing to discuss this issue and all other healthcare issues with you. Any questions, please contact me.

Very truly,



Richard S. Edley
President/CEO