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Media Statement

Senate Bill Gives Health Insurers More Leeway to Raise Rates

HARRISBURG, PA (December 7, 2011) — Antoinette Kraus, project director of the Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN), issued a statement on the Pennsylvania Senate's passage of SB 1336:

"We are disappointed by today's Senate vote. With health insurance costs rising dramatically every year, the Senate is taking Pennsylvania in the wrong direction with a bill that gives insurance companies even more leeway to raise rates on small businesses and consumers.

"The bill fixes a flaw in the state's health insurance rate review law for the small group market but does so at the expense of a meaningful review process. This week, we delivered a letter signed by more than 150 small business owners and their employees urging the Senate to amend the bill to ensure a more transparent and meaningful rate review process.

"Unfortunately, the Senate is missing a golden opportunity to better protect small businesses and working families from unjustified rate hikes at a time when health insurance costs are already much too high."

The Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN) is a coalition of 50 groups from across the Commonwealth working to improve access to quality health care through the expansion of health insurance coverage. To learn more, go to www.pahealthaccess.org.