



PA HEALTH ACCESS NETWORK

www.pahealthaccess.org

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Editor's Note: We can share additional Valentine's Day messages with reporters or editors interested in reporting on this issue. You can also view messages sent to Governor Corbett directly at his [Facebook page](#).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A Valentine's Day Message to Governor Corbett: Have a Heart, Save AdultBasic

Consumers and advocates deliver hundreds of handmade Valentines to Governor Corbett

February 14, 2011 — Health advocates, community members and adultBasic consumers delivered more than 700 handmade Valentines to Governor Tom Corbett today urging him to save adultBasic. The Valentines were delivered to the Governor's regional offices in Erie, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Scranton.

The Valentines offered messages from some of the 42,000 working Pennsylvanians enrolled in the state's adultBasic health insurance program. These people will lose their coverage on February 28, unless Governor Corbett and the Legislature take action soon.

Linda Nahrgang, a small business owner from Philadelphia, told the Governor in her Valentine that the end of adultBasic would spell the end of her business.

"I hope YOU have a happy day, because my Valentine's Day is going to be the last Valentine's with health care coverage," she wrote. "As the economy improves, I am in the position to add jobs, but I can't do it without health care ... I have no choice but to close my business and get a job with benefits."

Governor Corbett has proposed allowing adultBasic to expire and offering those losing coverage the option of enrolling in Special Care, a plan that costs as much as 400% more than adultBasic and provides much more limited benefits.

Governor Corbett has said that the Commonwealth lacks the funds to continue adultBasic, but there are multiple funding options to continue this vital insurance option for working Pennsylvanians. The nonprofit Blue Cross/Blue Shield providers, which have funded adultBasic for the last six years, could continue funding it as a part of their charitable mission with less than 3% of their combined \$6 billion in surpluses.

The Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN) and other advocates have urged Governor Corbett to keep adultBasic alive until 2014 when key provisions of the federal Affordable Care Act take effect.

PHAN collected hundreds of Valentines from across the state over the past week. Many other concerned Pennsylvanians are sending Governor Corbett Valentine's Day messages on his [Facebook page](#), urging him to have a heart and save adultBasic.

Dr. Mona Sarfaty, a physician from Southeastern Pennsylvania, was one of nearly two dozen people to send Governor Corbett a Facebook message this morning. “Now is not the time to cut Pennsylvanians off from health care services,” she wrote. “Access to care through adultBasic should be protected. Adverse effects on the health of these people will be your legacy and will be on your conscience if you fail them.”

AdultBasic provides no frills health insurance to people who earn up to 200% of the federal poverty level. In the wake of the recession, the adultBasic waiting list has exploded by more than 400% — to nearly 500,000 in January — while enrollment has been declining because of uncertainty over future funding.

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.