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House of Representatives  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

February 1, 2000

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ORIGINAL: 2079

BUSH

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Mr. John R. McGinley, Jr., Chairman  
Independent Regulatory Review Commission  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor Harrisstown 2, 333 Market Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17101

Coccodrilli

Nyce  
Harris, Jewett,  
Markham, Smith,  
Wilmarth, Sandusky,  
Wyatte, Notebook

RE: Act 68 Regulations

Dear Chairman McGinley:

RECEIVED  
2000 FEB -3 AM 9:20  
INDEPENDENT REGULATORY  
REVIEW COMMISSION

I am writing in reference to the Department of Health's proposed Act 68 regulations for managed care organizations.

As a House member with a community hospital in the district it's essential that the Act 68 regulations accurately reflect the intent of the legislation, and benefit patients by promoting more coordination between health care providers and health plans.

I am pleased to see that the regulations contain reporting requirements of plans. This will ensure useful oversight and will provide consumers with information concerning plan practices. Additionally, requiring that the medical necessity definitions contained in all documents be uniform will assuredly provide better medical decisions.

On the other hand, I believe the regulations must be sufficiently defined to guarantee that enrollees receive the same level of medical care, whether it be for emergency services by non-participating providers or treatment for which there are no participating providers able to render required services. The final regulation must reflect the Department of Health's standards for a variety of services such as emergency care and direct access to certain care.

Over the past several years small community hospitals have found themselves to be under financial strain. Hopefully, the Act 68 regulations will help and not acerbate the situation for small hospitals

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.".

Robert E. Belfanti, Jr.  
State Representative