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**House of Representatives**  
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
HARRISBURG

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May 15, 2024

**Subject: An Open letter to the leadership of Keystone First, AmeriHealth Caritas PA, and Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP)—Urgent Appeal for CHOP’s Inclusion in Keystone First and AmeriHealth Caritas PA Networks**

Over the past week, we have received distressing messages from constituents concerned that their children may lose health coverage for the CHOP practices and physicians who currently serve as their trusted caregivers. As leaders of these vital healthcare organizations, you bear the responsibility of finding a path forward—one that ensures CHOP remains “in-network” for the Pennsylvania children you serve.

The impact of removing CHOP from the networks of Keystone First and AmeriHealth Caritas PA would diminish access to vital medical care and affect a number of stakeholders:

- Children with disabilities, since CHOP specializes in treating children with complex medical conditions and disabilities.
- Children from low-income families, whose options are more limited for financial reasons.
- Their families, many of whom already struggle under the burden of medical needs and medical debt; and
- Doctors, nurses, and all other medical providers within CHOP, which is one of the region’s biggest employers.

History has shown that prolonged stand-offs between healthcare entities have severe consequences. We’ve witnessed similar situations over the past two decades, such as the disputes between UPMC and Highmark, Lehigh Valley Health Network and Aetna, and Tower Health and Cigna. The longer these disputes persist, the greater the harm to patients, families, and all involved parties.


Failure to reach an agreement would result in disrupted care for thousands of young and sick patients. Families who are already navigating the complexities of the medical system would face additional challenges. For children with severe chronic conditions, unique disorders, and special needs, finding an alternative provider with the necessary expertise would be an uphill battle.

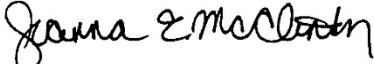
Moreover, since the affected patients are covered through Medicaid, the consequences are even more pronounced, as fewer practices are available to many of these children due to their parents' income limitations.

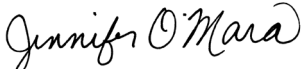
As lawmakers, our duty is to create a better Pennsylvania for the people we serve. One component of this work is making sure both the public and private entities that impact residents' daily lives are living up to *their* duties to the people of this commonwealth and that we live up to our promise through the Medicaid program to provide viable medical coverage for all our citizens, especially our most vulnerable children and families.


With this in mind, we urgently call upon Keystone First, AmeriHealth Caritas PA, and CHOP to come together and find a solution that maintains CHOP's inclusion in the network, honoring the shared mission—to ensure that Pennsylvania children receive the high-quality care and healing they need and deserve.


Sincerely,

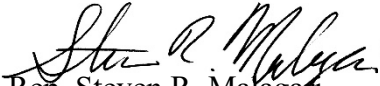
  
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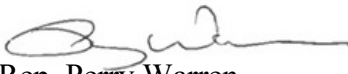
  
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165<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
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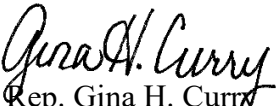
  
Rep. Christina Sappey  
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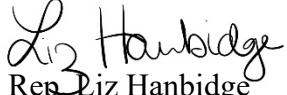
  
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53<sup>rd</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County


  
Rep. Perry Warren  
31<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Bucks County

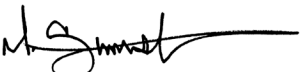
  
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74<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chester County

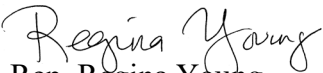
  
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61<sup>st</sup> Legislative District  
Montgomery County

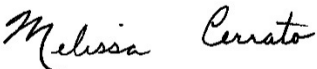
  
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162<sup>nd</sup> Legislative Committee  
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157<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
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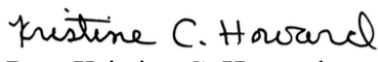
  
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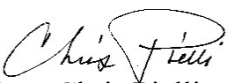
  
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Montgomery County

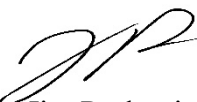
  
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148<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
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Rep. Carrol Hill-Evans  
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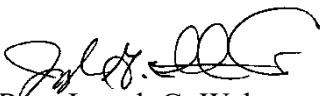
  
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