



APR - 3 1997

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

DATE: April 2, 1997
TO: Policy Committee Members
FROM: Rep. Mike Veon
Democratic Policy Chairman
RE: Managed Care

One of the issues which the Policy Committee wants to pursue this year is managed care. A number of members of our caucus and of the Policy Committee have suggested that we pursue this issue in a comprehensive and energetic fashion. This issue is important to many of our constituents since many are consumers of managed care.

Therefore, the Democratic Caucus may want to embrace this issue and be seen as taking the lead on behalf of managed care consumers. As you know, many of our members have introduced bills to protect managed care consumers and have led the floor debate over the last few years on a variety of bills and amendments on this issue. Dick Olsz, Larry Curry, and Tony Deluca have been particularly active on this subject over the last several terms.

We think that if we organize around a rational, comprehensive Democratic-sponsored, consumer-oriented approach and legislation, our caucus could establish itself on this issue. I and other members of our caucus have such legislation available.

The Policy Committee will hold a meeting on Monday, April 7th **IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING SESSION** to discuss how we as a caucus could organize around this issue. If you would be interested in participating in this meeting, please contact my office at 7-1290. The meeting will be held in the Democratic caucus room.

I look forward to your thoughts and to working with you. Thank you.



MAR 14 1997

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

March 13, 1997

Hon. Tom Scrimenti
25B East Wing
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Tom:

I'm sorry you missed our Policy Committee meeting this past Tuesday. I have attached for your review some brief notes from the meeting, as well as copies of all the material that was handed out. These materials include a draft of our caucus agenda, a Menu of Activities for the Task Forces as well as a list of suggested Task Forces, information provided by Rep. George's office on the DEP, and a Appropriations Town Meeting schedule.

Committee members agreed to review our draft caucus agenda document and come to closure on that document at the Tuesday, April 1 meeting. Once endorsed the agenda will be presented to the full caucus for approval.

I also distributed sign up sheets for our suggested task forces and requested the committee members to sign up for those task forces in which they have an interest. Please review the suggested list that is included in this letter and let me know which task forces you would like to be involved with. The committee will continue to refine the task force operations and to gauge the level of interest for topics. The task force on State Stores met on Wednesday, March 12 and has requested a show of support at a UFCW rally in the Rotunda on Monday, March 17 at 1 PM.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, in the caucus room, at the lunch break or in the event there is no lunch break, at the end of session. If you have any questions or comments please contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "MIKE" in a stylized, cursive font, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Veon



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
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NOTES FROM 3/11 POLICY

- Rep. Tangretti is requesting support for his law enforcement resolution
- Rep. Cowell suggests that we be more focused with regards to education issues
- set up a meeting with Rep. Cowell and staff and MRV and staff re: education in the agenda
- Rep. DeLuca suggests that we bring gas tax issue into Appropriations town meetings
- Phila. Delegation having state store hearing on 3/20 -- City Hall
- Meet with Rep. George and staff re: environment
- Meet with Rep. Donatucci and staff re: LCB
- Meet with Rep. VanHorne and staff on DCA
- Policy scheduled to sign off on Agenda first week of April (Tues., 4/1)
- Present to Caucus second week of April

Policy Committee Taskforce's Menu of Activities

Policy Committee will form taskforces on various issues as determined by the committee. Some taskforces will be of short-term duration and others will be long-term. Each taskforces will develop its own plan of action agenda. The following are suggested approaches.

I. Mission Statement

- a. Write "Mission Statement" for the taskforce.
 1. What is the purpose of the committee?
 2. What are the long and short term goals?

II. Legislative Strategy

- a. Assemble a legislative package of bills (vague and/or specific)
 1. Includes relevant titles to amend
 2. Package of bills to be offered in committees or as amendments
 3. Package of all amendments.
 4. Assign "point people" who will offer bills, amendments and/or speak on floor.
- b. Develop tentative "Timeline."
 1. When to introduce bills.
 2. When to hold hearings, news conferences, etc.
 3. When, and if, to submit discharge resolutions, and other legislative tactics.
- c. Serve as Issue Resource for all caucus members
- d. Develop "Issue Packs" for caucus members
 1. Outline history of issue
 2. Current legislative and public debate
 3. Bills and amendments offered
 4. Democratic and Republican strategies

II. Media Strategy

- a. Hold press conference (or some other event)
 - 1. Present to media the taskforce's purpose and legislative strategy. "This is what were doing, and this is how were going to do it." Put them and R's on notice.
- b. Editorial boards and other media outlets (radio/TV)
 - 1. Select point people who will meet with editorial boards and other media outlets.
 - 2. Who will appear on radio and TV. Who will be the media point persons?
- c. Present press with a clear legislative strategy on paper.
 - 1. Tell them what to look for.
 - 2. Who the key contacts are on the taskforce.
 - 3. What the bills and amendments mean.
 - 4. How we expect the Republicans to block our efforts.
- d. Individual member communications
 - 1. Give each member press release/packet to send to their district media.

III. Gathering Support

- a. Hold hearings (where appropriate)
 - 1. Discuss legislative strategy
 - 2. Ask for comments and questions from general public and "experts."
- b. Send information to All appropriate persons and organizations
 - 1. Purpose of committee, goals, strategies, etc.
 - 2. Ask for input.
- c. Compile list and letters of Support
- d. Hold formal and informal policy "Forums" with key supporters and experts.

IV. Weekly Reports - Policy Committee Meetings (written and oral communications)

(To policy committee and whole caucus)

- a. Report on Legislative Developments
 - 1. Tracking titles to be presented on the floor
 - 2. Votes on taskforce bills or amendments (if any)
 - 3. What we can expect, what Republicans are doing to block or take issue.
- b. Report on Media Updates
 - 1. Keep them informed of Republican tactics to block or push off issue, etc.
 - 2. Keep informed of taskforce movements, etc.
- c. Overall report on taskforce activities
 - 1. Written report on what has happened.
 - 2. Hearings, letters of support.
- d. Provide all members with ready-to-use newsletter information.

SUGGESTED TASK FORCES

State Stores

Law Enforcement (Rep. Tangretti)

DCA

Prisons

Tax Reform

Environment

Basic Education

Higher Education

Children and Youth

Job Training/Voc-Ed Community Colleges

Health Care Cuts

Juvenile Crime and Violence

DRAFT

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE DEMOCRATS' 1997-1998 POLICY AGENDA

Prepared by the Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Committee

As the millennium fast approaches, the Pennsylvania House Democratic Caucus want a Pennsylvania prepared for the challenges of the next century. The House Democratic Caucus envisions that all of the citizens of this state should have jobs with good wages and benefits, quality education and job training, access to quality, affordable health care, and safe and secure communities. As a commonwealth, these are things we *must* do.

In order to meet the challenges of the 21st Century, the House Democrats envision a government which is smarter, not bigger. For every opportunity offered, we should demand and expect an equal or greater amount of personal and shared responsibility from our children, parents, seniors and environment.

The following 1997-1998 Pennsylvania House Democratic Policy Agenda tries to weave these principles of vision and responsibility and lay out for the people of Pennsylvania a map our Commonwealth should use as we approach the next century.

1997-1998 House Democratic Goals:

- ◆ **Jobs with Good Wages & Benefits**
- ◆ **Quality Education & Job Training**
- ◆ **Safe & Secure Communities**
- ◆ **Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care**

1997-1998 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICIES & PROPOSALS

What We Must Do: Jobs with Good Wages & Benefits

The House Democrats believe that our top priority is good paying jobs and quality education for hard working families. We must try to build partnerships between private business, schools and government by creating regional centers of excellence that train people in high tech skills for the jobs of the future, and that help small business. Instead of giving tax breaks across the board, House Democrats say we should have targeted incentives that require companies to create good paying jobs with good benefits like pensions and health care. Democrats believe that good schools and good jobs should come first.

- **Use** state funds to help local colleges and vocational schools adjust the programs they offer to better match the skills needed for actual jobs available in their area.
- **Use** state funds to build regional technology centers where businesses could cooperate in research and development, and where workers could learn high tech skills.
- **Provide** tax incentives for businesses if they offer job training to their employees.
- **Create** more enterprise zones. When businesses expand or relocate to distressed areas they should receive tax breaks and assistance.
- **Propose** tax incentives for businesses that provide better benefits to their employers, such as pensions and affordable child care.
- **Provide** loans and technical assistance to help small businesses grow in Pennsylvania.
- **Provide** adequate funding for roads and public transportation to support a healthy business climate.

1997-1998 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICIES & PROPOSALS

What We Must Do: Provide Quality Education & Job Training

Clearly education plays a pivotal role in the future of any state. If a state is to compete economically, attract business, keep its best and brightest, and maintain a significant quality of life, it must have the highest educational opportunities and standards.

The Pennsylvania House Democrats are committed to halting and reversing our Commonwealth's unabated slide in educational opportunities and standards. For example, today Pennsylvania has the 2nd most expensive public college tuition in the nation. We 47th in amount of state support for public colleges and 33rd in the number of citizens with four or more years of college. This is not acceptable. We must do better. If we want to attract better jobs to the state, we need to do a better job of educating people. That's why strengthening education at all levels, from grade school through college, is very important to the economy and our commonwealth. This session the House Democrats are going to fight to:

- **Increase** access to higher education by expanding college loans as well as controlling tuition costs so more people from working families can afford to go to college. Explore and expand grant programs like the successful Hope Scholarship.
- **Provide** more effective job training programs. More and more jobs of the future will require technical and computer skills, and Pennsylvania won't be able to compete if our workers and children lack the skills to fill those jobs.
- **Restore** our commitment to basic education. Long ago, the state shared half the cost of basic education, now it is just over a third at 37%. As a result our children are being left behind, and our local schools are struggling (and failing) to maintain standards without raising property taxes.
- **Encourage** partnerships among private businesses, community colleges, vocational education programs, and government, to help students learn the real skills they will need to get good jobs with good benefits.
- **Toughen** our academic standards in reading, writing and math. Our students should have the best teachers in the nation, and deserve a safe, clean learning environment.
- **Advance** more parental involvement in schools.

1997-1998 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICIES & PROPOSALS

What We Must Do: Provide Safe & Secure Communities

Crime prevention is an issue of personal safety and a key element in education, the economy, health care, taxes and the overall quality of life for our citizens. Pennsylvania House Democrats understand this and are committed to making our schools, neighborhoods and business centers safer.

We must provide a safe learning environment for all our children, safe neighborhoods where our citizens do not have to live in fear behind lock doors, and safe business centers so our people can go to work without fear of crime. And by making our schools, neighborhoods and business centers safer we will attract more businesses to our state, hold down taxes and improve our quality of life.

- **Invest** in our communities by putting more police on the street to make our neighborhoods safer.
- **Build** partnerships among business, government and community leaders to create safer business centers that will promote and expand business opportunities.
- **Toughen** and expand our fight against youth violence. Do all we can to stop the scourge of kids killing kids.
- **Require** that schools make public a school safety report card that reports any criminal activity by students, employees, or on school grounds.
- **Expand** effective prevention programs that teach our children the dangers of drugs.
- **Provide** our police the tools they need to combat crime in their neighborhoods by expanding the low-interest loan program.

1997-1998 HOUSE DEMOCRATIC POLICIES & PROPOSALS

What We Must Do: Provide Access to Quality, Affordable Health Care

Today, the health of our family members remains one of our greatest concerns. As the cost of health insurance increases and employers cut back or eliminate benefits; and as our population grows older and older and government budgets get smaller and smaller, health security for our citizens is a daunting task.

Whether it is pre-natal or new-born care, long-term care or prescription assistance, we must do what we can to ensure that our citizens are receiving the best health care possible. We must find ways to help create partnerships between business and government to expand health benefits, assist families in obtaining health coverage, and give a helping hand to our most vulnerable citizens: our children and seniors.

- **Expand** and protect the Children's Health Insurance Program. Continue to fight against the Republican attempts to limit this invaluable program that provides health care to our most vulnerable citizens, and expand it to provide care to the thousands who are not eligible.
- **Promote** effective programs like Woman, Infants and Children (WIC) and early intervention, and expand programs like Maternal and Child Health Care which combats teen pregnancy and other problems that are destroying our communities.
- **Prevent** further cuts in the Pharmaceutical Assistance Contract for the Elderly (PACE). Enrollment for the comprehensive PACE prescription program continues to decline. We must restore this well-run and vital program, and let the seniors of Pennsylvania know that they will not be bankrupted by their sky-rocketing prescription costs.
- **Provide** access to quality, affordable health care to all Pennsylvanians.
- **Extend** greater consumer protection to our citizens to guard against unfair and dangerous health care industry provisions.
- **Pass** the Democratic Child Care Safety Package. The House Democrats have put together a smart, effective package of bills that will ensure that our children have the safest and most affordable child care possible.

COPY

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

- AGING AND YOUTH
- DEMOCRATIC CHAIRMAN OF THE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON AGING
- PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
- AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Jody L Nuzzo
PO Box 106
Corry, PA 16407

Dear Jody:

With the release of the Managed Care Consumer Bill of Rights from the Presidential Advisory Commission on Quality Health Care, the issue of managed care is center stage at both the federal and state level. The changes America has experienced in health care delivery have been monumental and it is time that some action is taken to ensure the integrity of the health care delivery system by securing certain rights for consumers and providers.

To update you with regard to my position -- I advocate the right of the consumer to receive quality health care and the right of the provider to act in the best interest of the patient based on the provider's training and experience. As a member of the House Democratic Policy Committee, I have participated in meetings, hearings and debates on this issue. All have provided me with valuable information in the effort to address the problems with managed care.

The proposals which I have enclosed for your review echo those of the presidential commission. This proposal identifies similar key components -- or rights -- which should be the focal point of any debate on managed care. This proposal was developed after much input and research. It is my hope that with a focused and limited list of specific initiatives, we -- all interested parties -- may be able to better bring about a positive change in health care delivery.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the information I have enclosed. Enough can't be said about the problems with our health care delivery system and the solutions that are needed. I plan to devote as much time and energy that is needed to achieve a health care delivery system that works for all of us. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

/dje



MAY 1 1 1998

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

Office of the President John M. Ferretti, D.O.

May 4, 1998

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative
Room 25B East Wing
House Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I have recently reviewed your correspondence on the *Managed Care Bill of Rights-House Democrat's Initiative*. To date, the Democrat's *Initiative* represents one of the few positive actions taken by government on behalf of health care consumers and providers.

In this era of the for-profit managed care corporation, it seems that the primary focus of the industry has shifted from providing adequate health care to maximizing profit. It is the patient -- the pregnant mother or the ailing senior citizen -- that is increasingly forgotten in the debate. Who is to be their voice? Who is to be the consumers' voice? Traditionally, it was the role of the physician to advocate a patient's rights. But, with ever increasing restrictions being placed on the physician's medical judgment, this safeguard becomes more and more tenuous.

We appreciate your intervention in this dilemma by trying to preserve the sanctity of the physician-patient relationship. There is more to be done but this *Initiative* is a significant beginning. I enthusiastically support the actions by both yourself and the Democratic Policy Committee in this matter.

Thank you for keeping me informed of these important affairs. If I can be of any assistance to you in the future please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "J. Ferretti", written over a horizontal line.

John M. Ferretti, D.O.
President, LECOM