



Blue Cross
of Western Pennsylvania



Serving as agent for
Pennsylvania
Blue Shield

VERITUS INC.

MAY 12 1993

PAUL O'PALKA, JR.
Director
Government Relations

May 10, 1993

Honorable Tom Scrimenti
9 West Main Street
North East, Pennsylvania 16428

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

Since its inception, Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania (BCWP) has negotiated agreements with hospitals to cover the reasonable cost of treatment for its subscribers.

Our goal is to negotiate agreements which reimburse hospitals fairly and, at the same time, allow us the opportunity to gain better control of payments for and utilization of health care services.

BCWP has a long record of cost containment and medical management of health care. On behalf of our customers, we continuously seek innovative approaches designed to make health care more affordable. For example, our Individual Case Management program, which focuses on the highest-cost medical services, by itself last year saved our customers over \$21 million. This is only one of a series of health care management practices designed to control costs. But we recognize that more must be done to contain the escalation of health care costs.

We are currently in the midst of negotiating a four-year hospital reimbursement agreement which will become effective as of July 1, 1993. One important aspect of this contract, and something you may have heard about, is a fair payment rate limitation.

This provision will enable BCWP to obtain the lowest available payment rate that a hospital provides for any private payor. Currently, our subscribers are disadvantaged at a number of hospitals even though they, as a class of patients, represent the largest volume at these institutions.

Some hospitals have adopted strategies which price services at a level lower than it costs to provide them. These marginal pricing methods produce artificially low prices for the new business, while imposing higher costs on Blue Cross customers.

FIFTH AVENUE PLACE
120 FIFTH AVENUE - SUITE 1777
PITTSBURGH, PA 15222-3099
[412] 255-7855

Our customers are, in effect, subsidizing the cost of health care being delivered to the customers of our competitors.

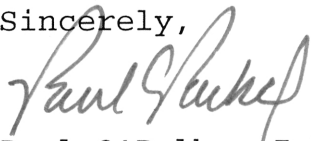
Some companies, such as certain for-profit health maintenance organizations, selectively contract with hospitals on the basis of cost . . . avoiding hospitals that offer advanced medical training and specialty care. HMOs that don't contract with these facilities are, in effect, forcing BCWP customers to subsidize the community health care system -- while deriving benefit from these same facilities that educate and train health care professionals and develop advanced medical treatment.

It's important to note the fair payment mechanism does not prevent a hospital from entering into contractual arrangements with other third-party payors. Additionally, it is only applicable with respect to a private payor as long as Blue Cross' volume of business at the hospital equals or exceeds the volume of business of that private payor.

In keeping with our community service mission, BCWP is committed to providing the best quality health care protection to the western Pennsylvania community at the lowest reasonable cost. Therefore, it is important that we continue to negotiate hospital agreements that are fair and provide tangible cost savings to our customers.

We seek your support in this effort to further contain the cost of health care for both our subscribers and your constituents. Should you have any questions or require additional information on this issue, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul O'Palka, Jr." The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Paul O'Palka, Jr.

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS



House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

May 25, 1993

Paul O'Palka, Jr.
Director, Government Relations
Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania
Fifth Avenue Place
120 Fifth Avenue -- Suite 1777
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3099

Dear Paul:

Thank you very much for your recent correspondence regarding your negotiations on hospital reimbursements.

I am very pleased to hear that an agreement on hospital reimbursements will become effective on July 1 of this year. To reiterate from previous correspondences, I am most concerned with those constituents who were automatically transferred to one plan and now do not have coverage for skilled nursing homes or prescriptions. I am pleased to hear that Blue Cross of Western Pennsylvania shares those concerns.

Again, thank you for your letter and please continue to keep me apprised of this situation.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

TS/sd

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
9 WEST MAIN STREET
NORTH EAST, PENNSYLVANIA 16428
PHONE: (814) 725-8664

9 WEST WASHINGTON STREET
CORRY, PENNSYLVANIA 16407
PHONE: (814) 664-9126

HOUSE POST OFFICE BOX 96
25B, EAST WING
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-0028
PHONE: (717) 787-9475

FEB 20 1995

First Baptist Church

43 South Lake Street

North East, Pennsylvania 16428

814/725-4698

PATRICK KENNEDY

Assistant Pastor

JOHN R. ELLIOTT

Senior Pastor

CHARLES SPACHT

Minister of Youth & Music

February 17, 1995

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
PA House of Representatives
Harrisburg, PA 17120

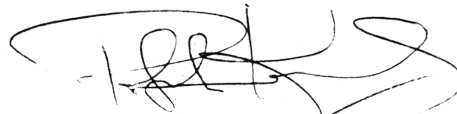
Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I'm writing to ask you for your support and even co-sponsorship of Representative Birmelin's Bill to amend Title 18, to prohibit nude dancing in "Bottle Clubs". This issue has been in the news quite a lot lately and it's time to send a clear message to the three Erie area clubs that their time in town is growing short.

City Council, as I'm sure you're aware, has recently written a new ordinance banning this which Judge Levin overturned saying that he didn't have to worry about the political fall-out since he was retiring anyway. Obviously, he knows the citizens would rather see the ordinance upheld. Last week City Council filed a petition to challenge the ruling and the fight will go on! That's good. The citizens need your support now just as they lent you theirs in November.

We have seen an increase in the Rape Crisis caseload which topped 693 last year! Studies have shown that men visiting these nude dancing establishments are aroused sexually by what they see and eventually many act out their sexual aggressions on innocent women and children. Let's be bold and drive these people out of the mainstream!

Thank you,



Pastor Patrick Kennedy

PK:ltw

"... Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart." Jeremiah 15:16

THOMAS J. SCRIMENTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

COMMITTEES

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE
AGING AND YOUTH
INSURANCE
FEDERAL-STATE RELATIONS

March 13, 1995

Pastor Patrick Kennedy
First Baptist Church
43 South Lake Street
North East, PA 16428

Dear Pastor Kennedy:

Thank you very much for your letter of February 17 regarding Representative Birmelin's legislation (House Bill 665) restricting bottle club activities. Your thoughtful input on this matter is greatly appreciated. Please know that I share your concerns about the lewd and immoral activities occurring in bottle clubs.

House Bill 665 was initially referred, on February 13, to the House Judiciary Committee, which did its business quickly. The Committee sent the bill, without amendments, to the full House on February 28. The measure is now receiving further consideration by the House Appropriations Committee.

Although you will not find my name listed as a cosponsor on the enclosed copy of House Bill 665, I recently alerted the Majority Leader's Office that I would like to become a cosponsor. This action should be reflected on all subsequent printings of House Bill 665.

Please know that I wholeheartedly support House Bill 665 and I will continue to actively work for its passage during the current session. If I can further assist you with this or other concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative

TJS:wdm
Enclosure

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

June 21, 1995

Mark E. Armbruster
Erie Brewing Company, Inc.
Hoppers Brewpub
123 West 14 St.
Erie, Pa 16501

Dear Mr. Armbruster:

I have received and read your letter regarding House Bill 1337. I would like to thank you for contacting me on your support and interest in this legislation. Your professional expertise and experience on this issue are always appreciated. I agree that this legislation could help create jobs and help the economy of Northwest Pennsylvania, which is one reason why I am a cosponsor of it.

Currently, House Bill 1337 is in the House of Representatives' Liquor Control Committee. I have contacted the Committee for a recent status report and was informed that, unfortunately, the bill may not be brought before the House for a vote this session. If this bill is brought up for debate and voting, I will be sure to remember your support and interest on this bill.

Again, I would like to thank you for contacting me on this legislation. As this bill is discussed and debated, I hope that I can count on your continued support. If I can be of further assistance on this or any other issue please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Tom Scrimenti".

Thomas Scrimenti
State Representative

ERIE BREWING COMPANY, INC.

Hoppers Brewpub
123 West 14 Street
Erie, PA 16501
(814) 452-2787

June 8, 1995

Mr. Thomas J. Scrimenti
State Representative
9 West Main Street
North East, PA 16428

RE: House Bill #1337
(Liquor Code Amendment)

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

Thank you for your interest, support, and sponsorship of the above referenced House Bill.

As one of four active brewery pub license holders in Pennsylvania, we feel strongly that the expanded opportunities afforded us in this legislation will allow us to compete on an even playing field and advantage our patrons.

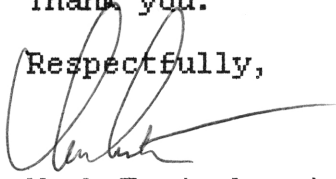
The success of our brewery pub will allow us to continue our plans for developing a regional brewing operation in Erie County. The renaissance of brewing is particularly appropriate to Northwest Pennsylvania and we are committed to developing and opening our brewery in the near future. This will mean jobs for Northwest Pennsylvania, exposure of our community/region, and strengthening of the tax base.

Your continued support is appreciated and we wait anxiously for this Bills' passage.

Could you please advise us of the ongoing status of this matter?

Thank you.

Respectfully,



Mark E. Armbruster
Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer

cc: William Miller
Board of Directors

THOMAS C. HOFFMAN

JUN 27 1995

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA 16509
(814) 864-0131

June 21, 1995

Representative Thomas Scrimenti
Room 412 Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Representative Scrimenti:

I am writing to you as a concerned citizen of this state, and as one of your constituents. I believe there is a serious problem facing Pennsylvania that needs to be addressed and I would like to request that you take appropriate action in solving it.

Our highway and bridge conditions are steadily declining while the amount of traffic on those roads is steadily increasing. According to published statistics, three out of every five miles of roads in the Commonwealth need repair. Even more alarming is the condition of our bridges where virtually every other one is either structurally deficient or obsolete.

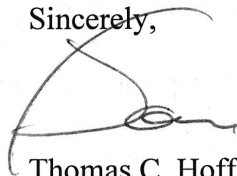
Action must be taken. A healthy economy requires a healthy road system.

The longer we wait to repair our aging highway system, the more it will cost.

As you begin the budget deliberation process, I urge you to consider a funding increase for both local and state maintained roads and bridges.

Thank you.

Sincerely,



Thomas C. Hoffman

ROY E. BALDWIN, MEMBER
97TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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□ 2720 LITITZ PIKE
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COMMITTEES

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT,
CHAIRMAN

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

Memorandum

Date: November 7, 2003

To: All House Members *Roy E. Baldwin*

From: Representative Roy E. Baldwin
Representative Richard A. Geist *Richard A. Geist*

Subject: Introduction of Bridge Bill #10
Also know as the Billion Dollar Bridge Bill Supplement

In the near future, I will be introducing a piece of legislation amending the Highway-Railroad and Highway Bridge Capital Budget Act. It may also be referred to as Bridge Bill #10 or the Billion Dollar Bridge Bill Supplement. It is needed to keep the list current for bridges that need major rehabilitation or replacement.

The bill adds projects, both state and local, to the existing list of bridges authorized for design and construction. It is financed through general obligation bonds, the Highway Bridge Improvement Restricted Account in the Motor License Fund, Federal augmentation and Local Government participation.

Bridge Bill #1 was Act 235 of 1982, the "Highway-Railroad and Highway Bridge Capital Budget Act" and nearly every session of the General Assembly thereafter has adopted Bridge Bill Capital Budget Authorizations amending the original Act.

These bridges will also need to be placed on the PENNDOT 12-year Transportation Program and in the case of local bridges a local match as high as 20 percent or as low as 5 percent must be secured.

In order to authorize a project for funding, you must first determine if the bridge (any structure over 20 feet in length-anything shorter is considered ineligible) is currently

Wm. Koller - 814 678-7106
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Rich
7175

authorized under any previous Bridge Bill. **There is no need to re-authorize previously authorized bridges.** The county bridge engineer or local PENNDOT District Bridge engineer can provide you with this information along with the following for each bridge:

1. Whether the project is a bridge replacement or rehabilitation; and
2. Name of bridge?
3. County and municipality?
4. State or local bridge?
5. Route number?
6. Over what body of water or road or railway?
7. The cost of each bridge project broken down by:
 - Base Construction Cost
 - Land Allocation (Right-of-way) Cost; and
 - Design and Contingencies cost

Send these items to Eric Bugaile, Executive Director of the House Transportation Committee at 129 Ryan Office Building. Deadline for submission to get into the original printer's number of the bill is Dec. 10, 2003.

If you wish to co-sponsor this legislation, please contact Alison Kotzmoyer in Rep. Baldwin's office via e-mail at akotzmoy@pahousegop.com or 787-1776.

Spread sheet
wkoller @ state . pa . us
