



NEW JERSEY SENATE

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April 22, 2009

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN:

HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES  
& SENIOR CITIZENS

MEMBER:

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Honorable Steven M. Goldman  
Department of Banking and Insurance  
P.O. Box 325  
Trenton, NJ 08625

Dear Commissioner Goldman:

I am writing in regards to Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield's application for conversion. I recently met with representatives of the NJ Horizon Watch Coalition who have worked with Senator Weinberg to introduce S-2532.

During our discussion, it was clear that the Department already has the authority to advance their goals. As such, I offered to write this letter to you requesting the Department of Banking and Insurance include the following elements in the review process:

- a) Have an independent expert conduct a fairness analysis/health impact study to evaluate the impact of the proposed conversion on all NJ residents, particularly the most vulnerable served by Medicaid. Kansas and Maryland were offered as examples of states that conducted such studies.
- b) Hold four (4) regionally located, public meetings in order to give the public adequate opportunity to discuss this important issue.
- c) Ensure ample time for the public to review the complete application and associated analysis before the public hearings so as to allow for their input.

Thank you very much for your consideration of this request. I look forward to working with you to ensure Horizon's application for conversion is carefully considered and that we come to a final decision that is in the best interests of New Jersey residents.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joe Vitale".

Joseph F. Vitale

Senator, District 19

JFV/lc