



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF BANKING AND INSURANCE
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STEVEN M. GOLDMAN
Commissioner

April 28, 2009

Honorable Joseph F. Vitale
Deputy Majority Leader
Senator, District 19
569 Rahway Avenue
Woodbridge, NJ 07095

Dear Senator Vitale:

I write to respond to your letter of April 22, 2009 regarding Horizon Blue Cross and Blue Shield's application for conversion. The Department takes its responsibility to consider the conversion application very seriously. Moreover, the Department and the Attorney General are committed to an open and transparent process. In fact, the public documents related to the public record of this application are available for review on our web site at www.state.nj.us/dobi.org.

As you are aware, the Department and the Attorney General hired various experts to assist us in our review of the conversion application. This is an on-going process. In addition, as both you and Senator Weinberg requested, we intend to hire an expert to perform a health impact study to evaluate, among other things, the impact of the proposed conversion on all New Jersey residents, particularly the most vulnerable.

Also, once Horizon's application is deemed complete, the Department and the Office of the Attorney General will schedule multiple public hearings around the State to consider the application and receive comments from the public. We expect to schedule a minimum of three hearings and are open to scheduling more if there is a public need and interest for doing so.

Finally, through the website and public hearings, the public will have ample time to review the public record and participate in the process. We welcome such participation and believe that it essential to a full and fair consideration of the application.

Thank you for contacting me on this issue. I hope that this letter addresses your concerns.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Goldman".

Steven M. Goldman
Commissioner