



April 28, 2010

The Honorable Sander Levin
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable George Miller
Chair, House Committee on Education and Labor
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman
Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen:

We are writing in regard to the rescission provision in the new health care reform law that is scheduled to go into effect in September. While many health plans already abide by the standards outlined in the new law, our community is committed to implementing the new standard in May 2010 to ensure that individuals and families will have greater peace of mind when purchasing coverage on their own.

Health plans are working to implement the health care reform law in a manner that will minimize disruption for the more than 200 million people we serve. That is why our industry has taken the initiative to provide more continuity of care for young adults by allowing them to stay on their parents' health insurance policy until the age of 26, another provision of the law which does not go into effect until September. We have been actively reviewing and discussing the rescissions provisions since the law was enacted and are pleased to be able to implement this reform ahead of schedule as well.



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While data from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) show that rescissions are exceptionally rare, we recognize the significant hardship that rescissions of coverage have on individuals and families. More than a year ago health plans proposed reforms that would end rescissions, provide guaranteed coverage with no pre-existing condition exclusions, and discontinue health status rating in conjunction with an effective personal coverage requirement.

Our industry also has long supported states setting up a process to make external review available to individuals whose policies have been rescinded so they can have their case heard by an independent panel of experts whose decision would be binding on the health plan. In fact, a number of health insurance plans already provide this valuable service to their individual market policyholders. Other plans are in the process of reaching out to state officials and third party review organizations to explore ways to make independent review available to consumers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Karen Ignagni". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Karen" being more prominent than the last name "Ignagni".

Karen Ignagni

cc: The Honorable Dave Camp
The Honorable John Kline
The Honorable Joe Barton