

A-3239

Brief Description:

Permits person covered by managed care plan to receive covered services from in-network provider without obtaining referral from primary care physician.

Bill #/Sponsor(s):

Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR. District 7 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman ROBERT M. GORDON District 38 (Bergen)

Assemblywoman LINDA R. GREENSTEIN District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

Assemblyman ERIC MUNOZ District 21 (Essex, Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblywoman JOAN M. VOSS District 38 (Bergen)

Reasons to Support:

- Simplifies access to health care for members
- May encourage members to seek out care for early intervention in Cancer and other severe conditions that need fast treatment.
- Will ease Doctor's paperwork burden.

Reasons to Oppose:

- "Open Access" plans already exist and are readily available in the free market. Since a choice of plans exist this bill is largely unnecessary.
- May encourage employees to seek out inappropriate levels of care.
- This will likely increase the cost of plans because the employees will be self referring to more costly unnecessary levels of treatment.
- By removing the choice of referral based plans the legislature will be passing a rate increase on to a very large portion of employers and employees that are happy with their current level of coverage.

NJAHU Position:

OPPOSE

For the reasons noted above, NJAHU opposes this bill. Our most recent experience leads us to conclude that this would raise employee and employer costs by 2-6% for non-Open Access plans.

Status:

6/8/2006 Introduced, Referred to Assembly Health and Senior Services Committee - 6/12/2006 Reported out of Assembly Committee with Amendments, and Referred to Assembly Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.



Legislative Briefing