

Illinois State Medical Society



January 27, 2010

Governor Pat Quinn
Office of the Governor
207 Statehouse
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Quinn:

The Illinois State Medical Society respectfully urges you to address lengthy reimbursement delays to physicians and medical facilities under the Quality Care Health Plan in the State Employees' Group Insurance Program. Physicians, medical facilities, and the state employees they serve are being jeopardized by the State of Illinois' failure to pay for services rendered in a timely fashion. During this fiscal year, payment delays have reached over 200 days.

The lengthy reimbursement delays are particularly harmful in areas with large concentrations of state employees. Physicians and medical facilities are being forced to assume the burden of Illinois' financial woes to the detriment of their own economic stability. Forcing physician offices and other facilities into financial jeopardy, possibly even bankruptcy, is endangering patient access to care.

We understand that Illinois has many pressing obligations. We hope that the health care services provided to its employees are not of such a low priority that they are being ignored, and reimbursements indefinitely deferred. We urge prompt payment for physicians and medical facilities for Fiscal Year 2010 so that they can meet their commitments to their employees, vendors, and most importantly their patients.

The Fiscal Year 2010 Budget did not include a line item dedicated to the State Employees' Group Insurance Program, but only lump sum appropriations to be used at your discretion for the payment of services provided to the state. We strongly urge you, as you construct your Fiscal Year 2011 Budget, to provide a distinct and separate line item appropriation dedicated to the State Employees' Group Insurance Program in an amount sufficient to assure a payment cycle of no more than 60 days in FY 2011, and 30 days thereafter for the Quality Care Health Plan.

Illinois physicians and medical facilities that care for State of Illinois employees are in no way soliciting new funding. This request merely asks for the government to fulfill its existing obligation to pay the physicians and medical facilities that treat state employees in a timely manner.

Sincerely,

Peter E. Eupierre, M.D.
Chair, Board of Trustees

cc: James L. Milam, M.D.
Steven M. Malkin, M.D.
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