



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
INSURANCE DEPARTMENT
1328 STRAWBERRY SQUARE
HARRISBURG, PA 17120

THE COMMISSIONER

November 3, 2003

Senator Gibson Armstrong, Chairman
Senate Banking and Insurance Committee
Room 281, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Stewart Greenleaf, Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
19 East Wing, Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Jack Wagner, Democratic Chairman
Senate Banking and Insurance Committee
Room 458, Main Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Senator Jay Costa, Jr., Democratic Chairman
Senate Judiciary Committee
15 East Wing, Capitol
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Gentlemen:

As the Commissioner of Insurance and as a member of the Governor's Health Care Reform Cabinet, I believe we share common goals in dealing with the complicated and multifaceted medical malpractice and liability insurance issues facing the Commonwealth today. We want to ensure the availability and affordability of, and access to, health care for all Commonwealth citizens. I am happy to respond to your request for information regarding the number of physicians that have paid into the Mcare or Mcat Fund for the years of 1990 - 2002.

The Department does not independently collect physician population data other than that information obtained by Mcare as it collects the mandatory assessment from participating health care providers. The Department is able to provide to you the aggregate number of physicians (excluding podiatrists and nurse midwives) that have actually paid into Mcare in prior years. I have attached a chart setting forth the total number of physicians that paid into the fund for the years 1976 - 2002. It is important to note that this chart cannot be used to interpret those specific issues related to change in scope of practice.

With respect to your request for information pertaining to the number of physicians required under Act 13 of 2002 to carry excess insurance provided by Mcare, the Department's numbers are incomplete as they would not reflect doctors with unrestricted licenses that may no longer be actively practicing and therefore not required or eligible to participate in Mcare. The Department of State, which has information relating to the number of licensed health care providers in the Commonwealth, may be better able to assist you with this request. You may wish to direct your inquiry to Scott Messing, Deputy Commissioner for the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. I would urge you to be very specific in the information you request, specifically with respect to the general physician groups for whom you are seeking

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1 of 4

information. For example, dentists and chiropractors are not required to pay a Medicare assessment and accordingly, should not be included in the data you request.

I look forward to an ongoing dialogue and working with both the Senate Banking and Insurance Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee to confront this issue.

Sincerely,



M. Diane Koken
Insurance Commissioner

cc: Scott Messing, Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

2 of 4

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Insurance - KCMRIS Fund
DIR000978

State Wide Unique Count of Paid Covered Doctors
As of 10/29/2003

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Page: 1

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304

Recharge Year	Doctor Count
1976	20,224
1977	3,929
1978	6,064
1979	5,835
1980	6,838
1981	7,143
1982	23,824
1983	25,950
1984	26,800
1985	27,484
1986	28,121
1987	28,939
1988	29,339
1989	29,488
1990	30,454
1991	31,181
1992	31,868
1993	33,859

2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997	1996	1995	1994
35,180	35,131	34,180	34,170	34,315	34,196	34,333	34,095	33,321
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4 of 4