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MEDICAL SOCIETY[®]

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PENNSYLVANIA ASSOCIATION of
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS

"Supporting access to affordable, high
quality health care"



DATE: September 17, 2019

TO: The Honorable Members of the House Health Committee

FROM: Pennsylvania Academy of Family Physicians
Pennsylvania Medical Society
Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania Association of Community Health Centers
Pennsylvania Osteopathic Medical Association

SUBJECT: Support H.B. 533, Physician Credentialing Reform

On behalf of the PA Academy of Family Physicians, PA Medical Society, Hospital & Healthsystem Association of PA, PA Association of Community Health Centers, PA Osteopathic Medical Association and our collective members across the Commonwealth, we are writing to urge your support for H.B. 533, which would provide for important reforms to the physician credentialing process, helping to streamline the process and ensure continued access to quality and timely care.

While we understand that health insurers have an obligation to ensure that physicians are appropriately licensed and qualified to treat patients, the current system is slow and rife with redundant administrative burdens. Delays in the credentialing process have a negative impact on patients, physician practices, hospitals and community health centers, often causing limited access and disruptions in care.

H.B. 533 would provide reasonable reforms to the credentialing process that balance the needs of both insurers and licensed health care professionals by requiring all insurers to use a common credentialing application form, as well as providing for a 45-day window to issue credentialing decisions.

The legislation safeguards the rights of insurers to ensure that health care providers within their networks are appropriately licensed and qualified and does not prevent insurers from rejecting an application should the situation warrant such action.

On behalf of our combined organizations, we respectfully request your support of H.B. 533. Should you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Reis at jreis@pafp.com; David Thompson at dthompson@pamedsoc.org; Stephanie Watkins at swatkins@haponline.org; Jim Willshier at jim@pachc.org; or Andy Sandusky at asandusky@poma.org.

Thank you.