

# PENNSYLVANIA HEALTH LAW PROJECT

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## **Resolution of the Consumer Subcommittee Encouraging Pennsylvania to Expand Medicaid Eligibility Under Health Care Reform**

With the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (federal health reform), Pennsylvania has the opportunity to both expand its Medicaid coverage for its poorest residents and spend fewer state dollars. By “federalizing” General Assistance-related Medicaid, the Commonwealth would draw down federal match funding of more than fifty cents on every dollar it already spends on this entirely state-funded category. By expanding Medicaid eligibility to encompass only Commonwealth residents who have incomes below \$215 per month (i.e., 24% of the federal poverty level), Pennsylvania could both provide more residents with health insurance and spend fewer state dollars on its Medicaid program. In other words, early expansion would be a win-win proposal.

At its July 2010 meeting, the Consumer Subcommittee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee passed a resolution encouraging the Department of Public Welfare to aggressively pursue the early Medicaid expansion option under the federal health reform.

The Consumer Subcommittee resolves that the Department of Public Welfare:

1. Estimate how many individuals would be newly eligible under this expansion, and how many of the newly eligible would enroll, based on data it has now (including adultBasic expansion data); and
2. Pursue the expansion through a state plan amendment if the results are budget-neutral or revenue-generating.

Consumer Subcommittee of the MAAC  
Yvette Long, Chair

By Their Counsel:  
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