



June 28, 2010

Mr. Lou Felice
Chair, Health Care Reform Solvency Impact Subgroup

Mr. Steven Ostlund
Chair, Accident & Health Working Group

c/o National Association of Insurance Commissioners
2301 McGee Street, Suite 800
Kansas City, Missouri 64108-2662

Dear Mr. Felice, Mr. Ostlund, and Subgroup Members:

I am the President and CEO of Roadrunner Food Bank, the largest private sector distributor of food in the state of New Mexico. For many years we have received support for our work from Blue Cross Blue Shield New Mexico. This support has allowed us to distribute millions of pounds of healthy nutritious food to make a positive difference in the lives of tens of thousands of our neighbors who would otherwise suffer from the many deleterious effects of malnutrition. In 2009 alone we distributed more than 20 million pounds of food to reach families in need. Blue Cross Blue Shield has been particularly helpful in funding the initial stages of our new Mobile Food Pantries. These deliveries now take millions of pounds of food into hard hit rural communities and into urban neighborhoods where the increased need from the recession has completely swamped the existing resources.

I am writing to urge the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) to weigh the value of community-based donations strongly in your deliberations and ultimate recommendations to the Department of Health and Human Services. In these times of government cutbacks and deficits, contributions from the private sector, like the ones we receive from Blue Cross Blue Shield New Mexico, are vital in the critical fight against malnutrition that we face every day. Without such help we will undoubtedly face more health problems created by the lack of an adequate diet.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody Wattenbarger".

Melody Wattenbarger
President and CEO

A Member of



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