



June 30, 2014

The Honorable Chester A. McPherson
Acting Insurance Commissioner
Department of Insurance, Securities, and Banking
810 First Street, N.E., Suite 710
Washington, DC 20002

Dear Acting Commissioner McPherson:

The DC Chamber of Commerce is the District of Columbia's largest business organization and we urge you to adopt the recommendation of the national experts that have reviewed the Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc. (GHMSI) reserves about the appropriate level and range of GHMSI's reserves. GHMSI provides needed services to our business community at competitive rates, while also giving significantly to the Greater Washington community.

GHMSI is a key business and employer in the National Capital Area, and also provides vital health care benefit services to businesses and their employees in the District and in the Washington region. Health insurers must have the financial resources to cover the claims filed by their employees, whatever the reason.

GHMSI is our region's Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plan, and the only legislatively mandated not-for-profit health service plan in the region. A large portion of the region's Blue Cross and Blue Shield members are individuals and small employers - nearly 15,000 small businesses in the National Capital Area, covering over 230,000 employees and their dependents. GHMSI is critical to providing affordable health care coverage and has been an important partner in implementing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in the District and which the Chamber is a strategic partner of DC Health Link to ensure small business compliance with the ACA.

As a not-for-profit health service plan, GSMSI's mission is to expand and enhance access to affordable and accessible health care for the citizens of the region (whether members of the plan or not). In addition, GHMSI makes significant contributions to many community organizations in the Greater Washington area. In 2013 alone, GHMSI provided over \$22 million to government programs and charitable organizations in the National Capital Area.

As several national experts have recommended, GHMSI's reserve level is appropriate and should be protected in order to ensure stability for our region's businesses and their employees. GHMSI must maintain adequate reserves in order to best serve the region's businesses and communities.

We urge you to consider GHMSI's vital role in serving the region's businesses as well as our community when reviewing the appropriate level of surplus for the company.

Sincerely,

Harry Wingo
President & CEO

