



Chester A. McPherson
Commissioner
810 First St. NE
Suite 701
Washington, DC 20002

June 23, 2014

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DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE
SECURITIES AND BANKING

Dear Commissioner McPherson,

I understand you will hold a hearing on June 25, 2014, to evaluate the reserve levels of our insurance company, CareFirst BlueCross/BlueShield. My independent, small LGBT-owned and certified business has been covered by CareFirst for over two decades. I am concerned that you understand the importance of this coverage to small firms such as mine, as well as to the non-profit organizations operating in the District of Columbia with whom I work and support.

There are two key points I would make on behalf of firms like mine and on behalf of the many non-profits in the District:

1. We support effective implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. With implementation projected to continue through 2018, our insurance companies need to be sure they can meet the requirements of this important piece of legislation, and that includes maintaining a healthy level of reserves. I believe that CareFirst's reserves fall within the optimal range to meet the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. We would urge you to err on the side of strong reserves to cover all contingencies that could arise to insure that this critically-important law succeeds.
2. Whether we agree on the appropriateness of the current level of CareFirst's reserves, I hope you will require that the reserves be returned to the subscribers, either in the form of a rebate or rate reductions. Any other utilization of CareFirst's reserves, paid by and for its policyholders, would be an unwelcome and wrongful intrusion by the government of the District of Columbia. The reserves belong to those of us who paid them; they are not tax revenues.

Finally, I would also like to highlight that CareFirst provides over \$22 million in charitable giving every year. CareFirst's charitable contributions deserve to be honored, as they are a trusted community leader and partner.

I truly hope you will take my point of view into your considerations, along with other small business owners.

Sincerely,

Robert V. Witeck
President
Witeck Communications, Inc.