

## **GHMSI EXCESSIVE SURPLUS HEARING**

### **COMMENTS**

**October 26, 2009**

Please consider these comments concerning remedies to be applied if a surplus attributable to the Group Hospitalization and Medical Services, Inc., or "GHMSI," a subsidiary of Carefirst, Inc. is found to be excessive under the MIEA Act.

One remedy that has been suggested if the surplus is found to be excessive is a reduction in insurance rates. This would be very beneficial, especially for lower-income plan participants. However, lower rates will do nothing to alleviate the catastrophic risk posed by high drug prices, especially for some medical conditions. Under current plan limits, prescription benefits under Blue Cross/Blue Shield's "guaranteed issue" plans are capped at \$1500 annually. Given the current (and rising) cost of prescription medications, this amount is unreasonably low. The commissioner should consider increasing that limit to something more realistic.

Respectfully Submitted,



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