

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 31, 2008

Mr. William J. Marino, President and Chief Executive Officer
Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey
Three Penn Plaza East
Newark, New Jersey 07105-2200

Dear Mr. Marino:

It has come to our attention that Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (“Horizon”) has terminated its contract with The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (“CHOP”). We are very concerned about this termination since a number of children living in New Jersey may lose the access to pediatric subspecialty care they have come to depend upon.

Accordingly, we strongly urge you to reassure us, as well as parents and children in New Jersey, that Horizon will continue to negotiate vigorously and in good faith in order to reach a contract with CHOP. The children of New Jersey deserve no less.

If for some reason, however, a contract with CHOP cannot be entered into promptly, then Horizon must ensure that the public receive accurate information about their right to access CHOP in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, including any limitations, increased deductibles and co-pays. It is our understanding that some of the information provided by Horizon has been confusing and, at times, incomplete regarding these issues.

We look forward to hearing from you directly so that we may learn more about your intentions to negotiate a resolution to this matter, as well as to hear more about how Horizon intends to provide full and accurate information to families about the implications of this termination.

Sincerely,


ROBERT MENENDEZ
United States Senator


FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
United States Senator