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**MIKE FOLMER**



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**Senate of Pennsylvania**

48TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT

January 27, 2010

Governor Edward G. Rendell  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
Office of the Governor  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

This morning, the Senate Communications & Technology Committee, which we chair, heard testimony on the proposed Strategic Plan for the Pennsylvania Health Information Exchange ("PHIX"). Deep concerns were expressed by Members of both parties on the recommended no-bid, intergovernmental agreement with Delaware to piggyback onto their existing contract.

While Members strongly embrace the timely goal of improving health care quality and efficiency through the establishment of a network that shares electronic medical records, electronic health records, and e-prescriptions, Members also believe proper implementation is key to creating a sustaining network that is workable, affordable, and meaningfully-utilized. At the same time, we want a procurement process that is fair, open, transparent, and competitive to assure taxpayers their federal and state tax dollars are being well spent.

We learned at last December's hearing on IT procurement, and again at today's hearing, about the steps your Administration has taken to improve IT contracting, which were most recently showcased with the expedited ARRA-Broadband Mapping contract (less than 60 days, start to finish). This is a good example of the fact that the IT-ITQ process can handle PHIX contracts quickly, efficiently, and openly.

According, we respectfully request you delay signing any agreement with Delaware (or any other state) until the Administration conducts an expedited IT-ITQ process to receive, review, and award this contract. This would give you, the General Assembly, the general public, and all other interested parties the assurance that the Commonwealth has indeed secured the best value for their tax dollars.

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We also pledge to you that during the delay, we will give serious consideration and work hard to advance the legislative and funding elements of the proposed PHIX plan.

Sincerely,

**COPY**

**MIKE FOLMER**  
48<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

**JOHN WOZNIAK**  
35<sup>th</sup> Senatorial District

MF:fs:nb

cc: Ann Torregrossa, Director, Office of Health Care Reform  
Honorable James Creedon, Secretary, Department of General Services  
Honorable Naomi Wyatt, Secretary, Office of Administration  
Ron Naples, Chair, Pennsylvania Stimulus Oversight Commission