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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER TO FEDS: IN's RATE REVIEW PROGRAM HAS BEEN EFFECTIVE FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES

On September 1, 2011, the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will begin to review health insurance rates for states that do not have the statutory authority to conduct their own rate review, or for states whose rate review program is deemed ineffective. Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Insurance (IDOI), Stephen W. Robertson, said, "For more than two decades, Indiana has exercised its authority to review and approve premiums for health insurance policies sold to Hoosiers. Since then, former Commissioners appointed by governors from both political parties have improved the rate review process here in Indiana to what it is today, which actually exceeds the standards required in President Obama's health care law."

HHS recently issued the final rule on *Rate Increase Disclosure and Review*. This final rule implements requirements for health insurance issuers regarding disclosure and review of "unreasonable premium increases." The final rule establishes a rate review program to ensure that all rate increases that meet or exceed a specified threshold are reviewed by a state or the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to determine whether rates are unreasonable. In addition, it requires that requests that exceed the federal government's specified threshold be made public.

Commissioner Robertson sent a letter to the Secretary of HHS, Kathleen Sebelius, outlining how his state meets or exceeds the six requirements a state must meet in order for HHS to deem a state's rate review program as effective. Even if Indiana is recognized as having an effective rate review program, its companies will still be subjected to some duplicative reporting to the federal government. Nonetheless, companies that sell health insurance products in Indiana will not have to go through the actuarial review processes with both the federal government and the Indiana Department of Insurance.

Currently, the Indiana Code requires all new health insurance product form and rate filings to be filed with the Commissioner of Insurance before they are able to be sold in the market. Similarly, Indiana requires all requests for rate adjustments thereafter to be filed and approved. Commissioner Robertson's letter also points out that Hoosiers can now find out more about their health insurance premiums and track them along the way during Indiana's rate review process via *Rate Watch*, which is located on IDOI's website at http://www.in.gov/idoi/ratewatch/.

If you have questions or issues with your insurance company, please contact IDOI Consumer Services at 1-800-622-4461 or 317-232-2395, or you can file a complaint online at http://www.in.gov/idoi/2552.htm.