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March 27, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Maile S.L. Shimabukuro, Chair
House committee on Human Services & Housing

Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Chair
House Committee on Health

FROM: Lillian B. Koller, Director

SUBJECT: H.C.R. 98/H.R. 80 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO COLLECT DATA AND REPORT HOW COUNSELING COVERAGE COULD BE PROVIDED TO ALL MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES WISHING TO QUIT SMOKING
Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2008, 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of these resolutions is to request the Department of Human Services to collect data and report how counseling coverage could be provided to all Medicaid beneficiaries wishing to quit smoking.

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of these resolutions as the Medicaid QUEST and Medicaid Fee-For-Service programs already provide benefits for smoking dependence such as nicotine patches. In addition, at least two of the four Medicaid QUEST health plans cover smoking cessation counseling to Medicaid clients as an added benefit. The Department is amenable to conducting a feasibility study of developing and implementing a program to provide counseling treatment to all QUEST clients who wish to quit smoking.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on these resolutions.