

## Governor Wolf Signs Act 146, PCA- initiated Retro-Review “Reform” Bill

### PCA’s Successful Two-Year Legislative Cycle Topped by Limiting Multiple Co-pays, Retro-reviews



Left to Right: Angie Armbrust (The Winter Group); Eric Osterberg, DC (Executive Team); Ray Benedetto, DC (President); Governor Tom Wolf; Keith Miller, DC (Vice President); Edward Nielsen, MHS (EVP), Mark Singel (The Winter Group).

Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf signed Act 146 of 2016 (formerly House Bill 1178) into law on Friday, November 3, 2016. The legislation places two year limits on health insurers’ ability to conduct retro-active reviews and make recoupment demands of providers. So what, you may ask?

To the dismay of the powerful Insurance Federation of Pennsylvania, the PCA-initiated legislation, which made little significant progress over the past five legislative sessions, garnered the support of a prominent and diverse group of health care associations, including the PCA, Pennsylvania Orthopaedic Society, PA Optometric Association, Pennsylvania Medical Society, Hospital & Health System Association of Pennsylvania and others.

Commenting on the signing into law of the former House Bill 1178, PCA President Dr. Ray Benedetto said, “So many DCs ask ‘what does it matter?,’

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Ray Benedetto, D.C.

when it comes to politics, public policy and making changes for the better. Well, here is proof positive that dedicated individuals can make THE difference in choosing inspiring actions over any semblance of complacency or disengagement.”

On July 31, 2015, PCA and a variety of health care provider organizations, realized a dream of creating a “more level” playing field between patients, providers and insurers. Act 39 of 2015, the Fairness in Multiple Co-Payments Act, sponsored by Senator Chuck McIlhinney, was signed into law by Governor Tom Wolf. Dr. Eric Osterberg, who chaired PCA’s Legislative Committee at that time commented, “Act 39 never would have had a political life, much less been passed by the House and Senate and signed into law, had it not been for PCA and the vision and willingness of our DCs to take a risk, build collaborations and coalitions, and engage (e.g., fight) like crazy to see this law enacted. Chiropractors can be very proud of what they did to create fairness when it comes to insurers’ policies that force patients to make multiple co-payments in the same office visit. This process and the final bill were not perfect by any means, but Act 39 is GOOD health policy!”

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Eric Osterberg, D.C.

The summer of 2015 was soon followed by an even more aggressive, PCA-initiated political move that bore political “fruit” in the summer of 2016 on a long-standing sore point between providers and insurers: limiting health insurers’ retro-active reviews and take-back demands of providers. Again following the lead of the PCA, a diverse group of provider associations worked together to address an issue that saw its genesis more than ten years ago within PCA. The end result: Governor Wolf signed into law Act 146 of 2016, which places two year limits on health insurers’ retro-active reviews and take-back demands.

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Case Phillips, D.C.

PCA Immediate Past President and Legislative Committee chair Dr. Case Phillips said, “PCA has accomplished more productive and responsible legislative changes in the past two years than we have in the past 15 years. And, there is much more to come. Imagine what we could do to advance Chiropractic if we had 100% engagement by the profession in Pennsylvania?! It is truly boundless potential that is only limited by our own complacency and short-comings.”

Footnote: PCA members interested in more closely reviewing the legislation that just became Act 146 should Google PA House Bill 1178 to get the full text of the legislation. Once HB 1178 has been officially converted into Act 146 (an act of law), PCA will post it on the web site: [www.pennchiro.org](http://www.pennchiro.org).