

June 28, 2016

The Honorable Renata B. Hesse
Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General Hesse:

The undersigned organizations are writing to express grave concerns with the potential anti-competitive impact of actions taken by many state-based regulators reviewing the proposed mergers of national health insurers Aetna with Humana and Anthem with Cigna.

The proposed mergers are likely to have a significant negative impact on both the cost and quality of care throughout the country, and would permanently change our nation's health care system for patients, physicians and other stakeholders. Yet many of the regulatory reviews conducted at the state level have left the public wondering if their interests are truly being protected.

- Many decisions are being made in secret, with no public input, even in states where there is anti-competitive overlap. FOIA efforts to get copies of documentation to better understand the rationale for these decisions have been met in multiple states by stonewalling and obfuscation.
- States holding public hearings have been few and far between.
- Some states are not reviewing the mergers at all, even though these mergers will remove two important companies in an industry with high barriers to entry and little actual entry at this time.
- The merger review process in Connecticut is embroiled in controversy, with concerns raised by the media, elected officials on both sides of the aisle and others. This is particularly troubling, given that Connecticut also serves as the lead state regulator in the Anthem-Cigna merger, facilitating and coordinating communication among states reviewing the merger.

In summary, we see a review process that too often lacks integrity and transparency and prevents public confidence in the decisions that have been or will be made.

Because of a review process that was flawed in many states, the undersigned organizations urge the Department of Justice (DOJ) to carefully review the mergers' impact on each state and on the country as a whole. We are relying on DOJ to use its expertise and enforcement power to protect people from the harm these mergers will cause.

Tom Swan
Executive Director
Connecticut Citizen Action Group
tswan@igc.org

Frances G. Padilla
President
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
fpadilla@universalhealthct.org

Matthew Katz
Executive Vice President/CEO
Connecticut State Medical Society
mkatz@csms.org

Fredette West
Director/Chair AAHA/REHDC
African American Health Alliance
fdwest@comcast.net

Lois Uttley
Director
MergerWatch
lois@mergerwatch.org

H. Matthew Moy
Education and Advocacy Fellow
American Medical Student Association
eaf@amsa.org

Mark Hannay
Director
Metro New York Health Care for All
MetroHealth@igc.org

Chic Older
Executive Vice President
Arizona Medical Association
chicolder@azmed.org

Julie L. Novak
Chief Executive Officer
Michigan State Medical Society
jnovak@msms.org

Bob Cohen
Policy Director
Citizen Action of New York
bcohen@citizenactionny.org

Lhakpa Tsering
Executive Director
Missouri Health Advocacy Alliance
ltsering@mohealthalliance.org

Robert Kraig
Executive Director
Citizen Action Wisconsin
Robert.kraig@citizenactionwi.org

Jean Branscum
Chief Executive Officer
Montana Medical Association
jean@mmaoffice.org

Deb Kline
Director
Cleveland Jobs with Justice
dkline@clevelandjwj.org

James G. Potter
Executive Vice President
New Hampshire Medical Society
James.potter@nhms.org

Ken McEldowney
Executive Director
Consumer Action
ken.mceldowney@consumer-action.org

Randy Marshall
Executive Director
New Mexico Medical Society
rmarshall@nmms.org

Carmen Balber
Executive Director
Consumer Watchdog
carmen@consumerwatchdog.org

Heidi Siegfried, Esq.
Policy Director
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
hsiegfried@cidny.org

Jeanette Mott Oxford
Executive Director
Empower Missouri
jeanette@empowermissouri.org

Timothy J. Stapleton
Chief Executive Officer
Florida Medical Association
TStapleton@flmedical.org

Jackson Day
Consultant, Health Care Advocacy
General Board of Church and Society of the
United Methodist Church
jday@umc-gbcs.org

Athena Godet-Calogeras
Chair
Health Care Access Coalition
athenagc@icloud.com

Elisabeth Benjamin
Steering Committee Co-Chair
Health Care for All New York
ebenjamin@cssny.org

Lee Mercer
President
Health Care for All Oregon
lee@mainstreetalliance.org

Sarah K. Weinberg, MD
Chief Executive Officer
Health Care for All-Washington
weinbergsk@msn.com

Susie Pouliot
Chief Executive Officer
Idaho Medical Association
susie@idmed.org

Patrick T. Padgett
Executive Vice President
Kentucky Medical Association
Padgett@kyma.org

Gordon H. Smith
Executive Vice President
Maine Medical
gsmith@mainemed.com

Robert W. Seligson
Executive Vice President/CEO
North Carolina Medical Society
rseligson@ncmedsoc.org

Courtney Koebele
Executive Director
North Dakota Medical Association
ckoebele@ndmed.com

Ken King
Executive Director
Oklahoma State Medical Association
king@okmed.org

Bryan Boehringer
CEO & Executive Director
Oregon Medical Association
bryan@theoma.org

Kelly C. Kenney
Executive Vice President
Physicians Advocacy Institute
k2strategiesllc@gmail.com

Robby Stern
President
Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action
president@psara.org

Fredette West
Director/Chair AAHA/REHDC
Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities Coalition
fdwest@comcast.net

Rachel DeGolia
Executive Director
Universal Health Care Action Network
degolia@uhcan.org

Steven A. Wagner
Executive Director
Universal HealthCare Action Network of Ohio
swagner@UCHANOhio.org

Michelle McOmber
Chief Executive Officer
Utah Medical Association
michelle@utahmed.org

Donald J. Palmisano, Jr.
Executive Director/CEO
Medical Association of Georgia
dpalmisano@mag.org

K. Edward Shanbacker
Executive Vice President
Medical Society of D.C.
Shanbacker@msdc.org

Brian O. Foy
Executive Director
West Virginia State Medical Society
bfoy@wvsma.org

Sheila Bush
Executive Director
Wyoming Medical Association
sheila@wyomed.org