

# We Need a Public Healthcare Advocate in Pennsylvania

*Every year across the state, millions of us in Pennsylvania struggle to get the care we need and to pay for treatments and medicine. We need a Public Healthcare Advocate to stand on the side of everyday people.*

Everyone in Pennsylvania needs healthcare, but **giant health care companies are lining their pockets by pricing us out of care.** Hospitals and drug companies overbill us for essential treatment and medicine, and insurance companies have made a routine business practice out of refusing to cover our treatments and pay our insurance claims.

**Every year, these companies force over 750,000 PA residents to delay or forgo medical care** and send more than **1.8 million** Pennsylvanians a **surprise medical bill.** More than **1.5 million** of us are now in **medical debt.**

We the people of Pennsylvania need a Public Healthcare Advocate to help us **appeal healthcare companies' decisions** to overbill us and deny us care, and to stand on our side in Harrisburg by **letting public officials know how the health insurance system is and isn't working for people and advocating on our behalf.**

A Public Healthcare Advocate is a well-proven model that would make a world of difference to everyday people. **Pennsylvania already has public advocates** for utilities and long-term care, and **Connecticut has a highly successful Healthcare Advocate** that helps thousands of residents appeal medical bills and denied insurance claims, **returning more than \$10 million to residents every year.**

**To: Governor Wolf and State Legislators**

***“We, the people of Pennsylvania, want a Public Healthcare Advocate to help protect our healthcare rights.”***

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