

Keep Up the Fight for Mcare Relief ... Contact Your Legislators Now!

The General Assembly is continuing its work on the state budget. Still unresolved is bipartisan agreement to restore Mcare abatement for physicians and to provide health care coverage for the uninsured.

Current Status:

One tactic used to achieve Mcare abatement extension was to include it in a bill to reauthorize the Pennsylvania Health Care Cost Containment Council (PHC4). The Senate on June 29 passed a bill that would reauthorize PHC4 while also extending Mcare. On June 30, the House approved a bill that extends the PHC4, but not Mcare.

The agency's authorization expired June 30, and it has now shut down. Gov. Ed Rendell has indicated he will veto a PHC4 reauthorization bill that includes Mcare abatement because health care coverage for the uninsured has not yet been addressed.

The General Assembly is expected to be in session over the July 4th holiday. With the assistance of key legislators, other parliamentary tactics will be explored but the future of the Mcare abatement program is unclear. Every day that goes by without abatement, the more likely it becomes that we will lose another physician or young resident and further strain our health care system. PaACEP and the Pennsylvania Medical Society strongly believe the critical issues of Mcare abatement and phase-out can be solved while preserving funds to reduce the number of Pennsylvanians without health insurance.

Action Needed:

Contact your legislators now to express your concerns over the legislature's inaction and:

- Urge your state representative to support a two-year Mcare abatement extension
- Urge both your state representative and senator to work together to address coverage for the uninsured and to support the critical phase-out of the Mcare Fund
- Urge Gov. Ed Rendell to separately consider the issues of Mcare abatement with phase-out, and health care coverage for the uninsured

Find information on how to contact the governor and your legislators at [Capwiz](#) on the Pennsylvania Medical Society web site.