ELIZABETH FIEDLER, MEMBER
116TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

32 EAST WING
P.O. BOX 202184
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17120-2184
(717) 787-5774
FAX: (717) 705-2088

2400 SOUTH 9TH STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19148
(215) 271-9190
FAX: (215) 952-1025

House of Representatives
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
HARRISBURG

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August 3, 2023

Katie Merritt
Director of Policy and Planning
Office of Insurance Commissioner
1326 Strawberry Square
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Director Merritt:

I write today to urge you to add coverage of abortion services to Pennsylvania's essential health benefits (EHB) package.

Under the Affordable Care Act, individual and small group (50 or fewer employees) health insurance policies must cover the ten categories of EHBs. Each state can select a benchmark plan to describe what specific benefits must be included in each EHB category.

Pennsylvania is behind the times. We have not updated our benchmark plan since 2017. The Insurance Department's reevaluation of Pennsylvania's EHB package shows the department's commitment to ensuring consumers get the care they need, when they need it.

Many Pennsylvanians need abortion care, and no woman should be forced to go through with a pregnancy because they cannot afford such care. That's why I will be introducing a bill soon that will require insurance companies to provide abortion services without imposing a deductible, coinsurance, copayment, or any other cost-sharing requirement. Of course, the legislative process takes time; however, the Insurance Department, by updating Pennsylvania's EHB package, can ensure coverage of this service in individual and small group policies.

Thus, I urge you to ensure coverage of abortion care is included in any update to Pennsylvania's EHB package.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Fiedler
Pennsylvania State Representative, 184th Legislative District