

CONNECTICUT: The Medicaid Managed Care Council, a regulatory body overseeing the State's Medicaid programs, voted 11-0 last week to immediately freeze enrollment in the new subsidized Charter Oak Health Plan, and delay implementation of the HUSKY plan due to an inadequate network of providers. Governor M. Jodi Rell opposed the move and vowed the program will go forward without delay.

MASSACHUSETTS: The State's Division of Health Care Finance and Policy (HCFP) reported that 449,000 people have enrolled in private or subsidized health insurance programs between June 2006, the beginning of health care reform, and March 2008. With 173,000 members, Commonwealth Care's subsidized coverage represents nearly 60 percent of the statewide growth in the non-group market. About 191,000 or roughly 40 percent of the newly insured are in private commercial insurance, purchased through the Commonwealth Choice offering (18,000), a private employer-sponsored health plan, or directly on their own from private insurance carriers.

NEW YORK: Two central proposals were defeated last week when the legislature convened a special session to address the state's growing deficit: a recommendation to increase the covered lives assessment of \$120 million and a request to increase the surcharge used to pay for the Department of Insurance (\$30 million). The premium increases that were passed by both houses in April for Medicaid managed care, managed long term care and Family Health Plus premiums were reduced from 4 percent to 1.45 percent -- estimated to save \$41.2 million in state revenue. Despite these measures and other budget cutbacks, the state still faces a \$5 billion revenue shortfall when the legislature returns in January.