



## *Illinois General Assembly*

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### **Eddy Applauds COGFA's Approval of Extending the State's Emergency Health Insurance Contracts**

Hutsonville, IL... The State Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) today voted to extend through the end of the fiscal year the emergency health insurance contracts currently in place for those who receive their insurance through the state. State Representative Roger Eddy said the extension vote is a big step toward ensuring teachers and state and university employees will have continued access to their trusted doctors and other providers.

“The Quinn administration has made a complete mess of the health insurance procurement process this year. I’m very pleased that the legislators on COGFA, both Republican and Democrat, recognize that we need to extend these emergency contracts to provide families with some stability while we work to clean up the mess,” said Eddy. The emergency state health insurance contracts were set to expire in late September of this year. Once the extension is fully approved, they will instead be in place until June 30, 2012. Representative Eddy noted that the extension of the emergency contracts must still be approved by the state’s Chief Procurement Officer, Matt Brown, and a public hearing must also be held. Eddy said he fully anticipates both of those remaining steps will be completed in the next few weeks. He stressed that teachers, state and university employees enrolled in the state insurance program do not need to take any additional action at this time to maintain their coverage.

“Employees who want to continue their current health insurance coverage through June of next year don’t need to take any action at this point. For those who do wish to make a change, a new open enrollment period is being planned for the month of October,” Eddy explained.

“Our next step is to watch the Health Alliance lawsuit as it moves through the courts. When we return to Springfield on October 5<sup>th</sup>, I will also immediately move to override Governor Quinn’s veto of legislation we passed to extend our previous health insurance contracts for an additional two years and to make COGFA’s recommendations binding.”

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