

Public Testimony and Comments Regarding the 2015 Proposed Golden Rule Rate Increase Report

For Consideration by Commissioner Nick Gerhart, Insurance Division of Iowa

Prepared by Angel N. Robinson, Consumer Advocate, Iowa Insurance Division

December 6, 2015

I. Background

Iowa Code §505.19 sets forth procedures for health insurance rate increase requests exceeding the average annual health spending growth rate published by the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). The procedures include a requirement that the Consumer Advocate solicit public comments on the proposed rate increase, provide the comments received by the public on the internet, and to present the public testimony and comments received to the Commissioner of Insurance for consideration before a decision is made on the proposed rate increase.

The Consumer Advocate was notified in October of 2015 that Golden Rule Insurance, a UnitedHealthCare Company, was seeking an average rate increase of 19% on approximately 1,178, covered lives. The company states that the increase is needed due to an increase in overall costs of medical services, increased claims, and higher costs in deductible leveraging among other factors. As the proposed rate increase amount exceeded the most current average annual health spending growth rate of 6.1%, the Consumer Advocate solicited and gathered comments and testimonials from the public regarding the proposed rate increase. One policyholder contacted the Division to submit a comment during the six week comment period preceding the hearing.

II. Summary of Public Comment Trends

As the Consumer Advocate received one comment, there are not enough comments to provide a statistical analysis of the most comment trends. However, the one public comment received emphasized Golden Rule's history of double digit rate increases that led the policy holder to be paying double of what the policy was five years ago. The policyholder also requested that the rate increase in light of this be denied.

III. Conclusions

Though only one comment was received, under the Iowa Code section 505.19(3), comments may continue to be received until the Commissioner makes the final decision on the proposed rate increase. Any additional comments received prior to the Commissioner's decision, but after the presentation of the consumer testimony, will be recorded on the public rate hearing site.

Submitted respectfully for consideration,



Angel Robinson
Iowa Insurance Consumer Advocate

Appendix A: Public Testimony and Comments

[December 1, 2014 at 5:11 PM](#) | [Reply](#)

Hi my name is Dennis Warner.

In reference to the letter I received from Golden Rule Insurance Company that they are going to ask for a 19% rise in insurance cost. The last was a 15 or 16% raise. The last five years are double the policy costs. Its out of control. Nobody makes that much extra money a year that their wages go up 19%.

I would ask you to not give them the increase they are asking for.