



Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

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PRAEGER WARNS ABOUT “DISCOUNT HEALTH CARDS”

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger warns consumers to beware of companies soliciting discount health cards. Solicitations in Wichita appear to target the Hispanic Community. These so-called health care plans offer family benefits and coverage for as little as \$40 to \$100 per month and boast that there are no limits on age, usage or pre-existing conditions. The solicitation of these cards frequently comes by facsimile and e-mail.

“This is a sad example of how a few unscrupulous businesses target and take advantage of the most vulnerable members of our society,” said Commissioner Praeger. “These businesses are making false promises to Kansans who already have a hard time finding traditional means of insurance. While these cards appear to be a form of insurance, they are anything but real protection.”

Unfortunately, when people go to the doctor or hospital and attempt to use the fake discount cards, they discover they are responsible for the entire medical bill. “Not only do they have to pay 100% of the costs, they are out whatever amount they paid for the phony coverage,” said Praeger.

The Kansas Insurance Department’s Fraud Unit has recently received several complaints from the medical community about the discount health card scam. “Solicitations in Wichita seem to be specifically targeting the Hispanic community,” said Praeger. “Consumers need to be on high alert until these companies are put out of business in Kansas. My office is working with other state and federal agencies to eradicate the solicitation of phony discount cards.”

Some discount health cards do offer legitimate price reductions, but they are still not considered health insurance. Consumers should verify coverage with health care providers prior to purchasing or using any discount cards. Many entities selling these services are not truthful about what providers they have contracted with for discounts.

Commissioner Praeger encourages all Kansans to call the Department’s toll-free Consumer Hotline at 1-800-432-2484 before purchasing any “discount” or “health card” plan. Consumers are urged to call with any insurance-related question or complaint. Information is also available at www.ksinsurance.org.

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