



# U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

**Senator John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV, Chairman**

***For Immediate Release***

<http://commerce.senate.gov>

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## **ROCKEFELLER APPLAUDS INSURANCE COMMISSIONER DECISION- PUTTING CONSUMERS AND HEALTH CARE AHEAD OF PROFITS**

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Chairman John D. (Jay) Rockefeller IV released the following statement in response to the announcement by Delaware Insurance Commissioner Karen Weldin Stewart that she has imposed a \$325,000 fine against Blue Cross Blue Shield of Delaware (BCBSD) for its improper “preauthorization” payment procedures. On April 15, 2011, Rockefeller released a report prepared by the staff of the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee examining allegations that BCBSD and other Delaware health insurance companies were denying medically necessary diagnostic heart tests to Delaware consumers.

“I congratulate Commissioner Stewart for standing up for consumers and insisting that Delaware patients get the health care they pay for, when they need it,” said Rockefeller. “I also commend her for bringing together Blue Cross Blue Shield executives and doctors in her state to develop an innovative approach to approving diagnostic heart tests. This new approach puts the focus on appropriate patient care, instead of maximizing profits.”

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