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**State Representative W. Curtis Thomas**  
**Public Statement on Adult Basic**  
**January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011**

It is an honor for me to stand here alongside my colleagues today and call upon Governor Corbett to continue the Adult Basic program. Since it was first signed into law in 2001, the Adult Basic program has been a lifeline which offers affordable health insurance to the Commonwealth's working poor. Across the Commonwealth over 41,000 men, women & children are enrolled in Adult Basic. These are hard working people with jobs who make just a little too much to qualify for Medicaid, but aren't old enough for Medicare.

I am very concerned that Governor Corbett has proposed rolling current Adult Basic clients into the Blue Cross "Special Care" program. As I am sure the Governor knows, Adult Basic was created exactly as an alternative to the Special Care program which only allows 4 doctor visits per year! We are obviously in very challenging times, however, we must not lose sight of the fact that long-term economic health and economic growth of the Commonwealth cannot occur without access to adequate medical coverage. Too often when faced with tight budgets, we make cuts that disproportionately affect those neediest among us. This thinking is self-destructive and as elected officials we must find the courage to help working families rather than subject them to punitive cuts.

This issue is a defining moment for the type of leadership we can expect from our new Governor. Will Tom Corbett make cuts that hurt our working families who need help the most? Or will he find a way to continue funding Adult Basic and preserve much needed health coverage for more than 41,000 citizens from all parts of the Commonwealth?