PAI Supporting Statement on DOJ Action Against Mergers

July 21, 2016

The Physicians Advocacy Institute (PAI) applauds the decision today by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) to take legal action to block health insurance company mergers being proposed by Aetna and Humana and Anthem and Cigna. PAI urged the DOJ to make this move months ago based on the anticompetitive impact that these proposed mergers would have on the market for health insurance in states across the nation.

“In filing lawsuits to enjoin these mergers from proceeding, the U.S. Department of Justice has signaled its strong concerns about allowing these already huge insurance companies to merge into even larger and more powerful ones” said Robert W. Seligson, President of the PAI.

PAI sent a letter to the DOJ early this year, urging this action. In the letter, PAI argued that patients would see less choice, higher costs and more restrictive provider panels, should these mergers be approved by federal and state regulators. Physicians and other health care providers would face increasingly restrictive policies by more powerful mega-insurers, which would further erode their ability to provide the highest possible quality of care to their patients.