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EXHIBIT 32  
DATE 2-18-05  
HB 704

## HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

### HB 704 DPHHS TIME FRAMES

February 18, 2005

This legislation is designed to assure that certain activities undertaken by DPHHS' Quality Assurance Division related to their surveys of skilled nursing facilities (nursing homes) are done in a timely manner.

It provides two time frames:

1. The results of all surveys (inspections) must be provided to the nursing home within 10 working days of the time the survey ends. This time frame is in keeping with federal guidelines but we feel it would be strengthened by being required in state law. This legislation also clarifies that the 10-day time frame applies to all surveys--whether initial surveys, complaint surveys or follow-up surveys.
2. The results of all "informal dispute resolutions" must be provided within 45 days after the dispute process is complete. Currently it is taking several months to receive results - which renders the process meaningless. (Justice delayed is justice denied.)

The survey process is extremely important to facilities. What is written in facilities' survey reports and the timeliness of notification of deficiencies and resolution of disputes affects:

- the facility's reputation in the community
- the facility's ability to receive payment from Medicaid and Medicare
- the facility's liability insurance rates
- the facility's ability to correct deficiencies in a timely fashion

This is a simple bill providing reasonable time lines for completing important work.

Please vote "do pass" on HB 704.