Anthem Blue Cross & Blue Shield has recently implemented a policy requiring a pre-authorization for all advanced diagnostic imaging at hospitals in [STATE]. While anthem states that the intent of this policy is to force patients into receiving services like CT and MRI scans at independent imaging centers, in order to reduce costs, this drastically affects the continuity of patient care. Now a financially motivated insurance middleman is making health care decisions for a sick patient, instead of the doctor who actually understands that individual’s background and medical needs.

Outside imaging centers may not have the specialized radiologists and equipment a hospital has. This policy is especially harmful to patients with chronic medical needs where continuity of imaging is essential for proper follow up, as well as for rural and inner-city patients alike who rely on the hospital outpatient setting as the nearest point of access for these life-saving services.

[Focus on the impact to vulnerable patient groups who live with chronic conditions, if applicable]

Anthem’s policy compromises the physician-patient relationship, and allows outside, profit-driven insurance firms to make decisions that should be made by physicians, their radiologist partners and patients.

It’s time for our Insurance Commissioner to set up and get involved. We cannot let the implementation of this dangerous policy, which does nothing but undermine one of the most valuable aspects of medical care: the physician-patient relationship. We must look out for patients and prevent Anthem from profiting at the expense of needed medical care. it’s time to stop putting patients at risk to make a profit.

[SIGNATORY][TITLE]

[CITY, STATE]