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NEWS RELEASE

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INSURANCE DEPARTMENT CLARIFIES RATE REVIEW

Many changes cause confusion

BOISE ID (December 15, 2011) – The Idaho Department of Insurance has received a large number of calls from consumers who are confused about changes in the rate review process mandated by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

Any rates filed by insurers who offer individual and small employer health benefit plans which are submitted and effective after September 1, 2011, must include justification for increases that are in excess of 10%. This means that rates may increase more than 10% based on other factors allowed by Idaho Statute and Rules.

"Costs of medical care, individual policy holder characteristics – such as age – and other risk factors – such as smoking – all contribute to the rate a person pays for health care insurance," explained Department Director Bill Deal.

The Department has created a "Health Carrier Rate Justification" link on the home page of its website that will display information about rate filings as they are received.

Consumers can contact the Department at 334-4250 in the Boise area, or 800-721-3272 toll-free statewide. The Department's web address is www.doi.idaho.gov.

About the Department of Insurance
The Idaho Department of Insurance has been regulating the business of insurance in Idaho since 1901. The mission of the Department is to equitably, effectively and efficiently administer the Idaho Insurance Code and the International Fire Code. For more information, visit www.doi.idaho.gov.

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