

# Be Careful !!

## Warning Signs When Purchasing Health Insurance

- The plan or policy costs far less than what other insurance companies are charging.
- An agent or company insisting on cash payments. Avoid health plans that require your **credit card or bank account number**, especially over the phone or the Internet. This gives them the opportunity to add unauthorized charges to your account and puts you at risk for identity theft.
- An agent or company that pressures you to make a quick decision -- such as, "This is a one-time offer" or, "This is your last chance for special savings," or "You must sign up by a certain date."
- An agent or company that becomes evasive when you ask about state insurance licenses.
- An agent or company that asks for detailed personal information that is not needed to write health insurance.

## Discount Health Cards

Beware!!

READ

### OHIC HEALTH INSURANCE BULLETIN 2008-5

#### CONSUMER ALERT at [www.ohic.ri.gov](http://www.ohic.ri.gov)

- Discount health plans are **not** insurance policies!
- These types of discount plans are **not** government regulated.
- The Office of the Health Insurance Commissioner **does not regulate** the companies that sell discount health cards.

***If it the health plan seems too good to be true, it probably is!***

## When Purchasing Health Insurance

- Never pay for insurance until you are certain the company is legitimate.
- Always pay by check or money order and write your policy number on the check.
- Know if your membership is refundable if you cancel and what the procedures are for cancellation
- Be wary of policies sold through direct mail solicitations or over the Internet. Fraudulent policies are often sold in these ways.

