

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Minority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Majority Whip Cornyn, and Minority Whip Durbin:

On behalf of the nation's state insurance commissioners, the primary regulators of U.S. insurance markets, we write today to urge the Senate to act quickly to stabilize the individual health insurance markets. Your immediate action is critical to the viability of the individual health insurance markets in a significant number of states across the country.

As the Senate considers legislation to repeal or reform the Affordable Care Act, state regulators are concerned that key changes will not be made in time to preserve sustainable individual health insurance markets in many states. Specifically, we urge the Senate to: 1) ensure the cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments are fully funded in 2017 and 2018; and, 2) provide sufficient and sustained market stabilization funding to states for the establishment of reinsurance programs or high risk pool programs. These two actions alone would go a long way toward stabilizing the individual markets in our states while legislative replacement and reform options are debated.

In our April 19th letter to the Senate we noted that: "State regulators have had numerous discussions with health insurance carriers in their states about rates and participation in the individual market in 2018. As you know, there is increasing concern that more carriers will pull out of this market and rates will continue to rise, leaving consumers with fewer and more expensive options, if they have any options at all. This is not a theoretical argument – carriers have already left the individual market in several states, and too many counties have only one carrier remaining"

The time to act is now. Carriers are currently developing their rates for 2018 and making the decision whether to participate on the Exchanges, or even off the Exchanges, in 2018. Guaranteed payments for the CSR program and market stabilization funds will help increase consumer options and make coverage more affordable.

Of course, state regulators also remain committed to working collaboratively with the Senate on a non-partisan basis to address the longer-term issues related to health insurance. As your partners in government, we look forward to working with you as we all seek to make health insurance coverage more affordable and accessible.

Sincerely,



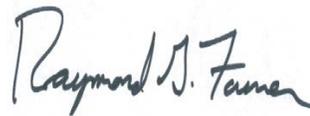
Theodore K. Nickel
NAIC President
Commissioner
Wisconsin Office of the
Commissioner of Insurance



Julie Mix McPeak
NAIC President-Elect
Commissioner
Tennessee Department of
Commerce & Insurance



Eric A. Cioppa
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South Carolina Department of Insurance