

July 19, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader Pelosi, Chairman Frelinghuysen and Ranking Member Lowey,

On behalf of the membership of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, we write today to express our support for the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) and urge Congress to provide adequate funding to support these important resources for our citizens.

The primary goal of SHIPs is to advise, educate and empower individuals to navigate Medicare, Medicaid, Medigap and long-term care insurance and to help beneficiaries make choices among the vast array of options to best meet their needs. SHIP assisters are well trained and are able to address consumer questions and complaints quickly and effectively.

The nation's state insurance regulators recognize the valuable role that the SHIPs have played in helping America's seniors, people with disabilities and their families in providing consumer education. The NAIC urges the Committee to provide SHIPs with the necessary resources to continue this important work.

Sincerely,



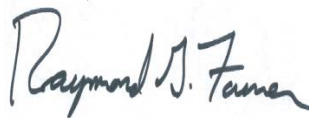
Theodore K. Nickel
NAIC President
Commissioner
Wisconsin Office of the
Commissioner of Insurance



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



Eric A. Cioppa
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Maine Bureau of Insurance



Raymond G. Farmer
NAIC Secretary-Treasurer
Director
South Carolina Department of Insurance