

March 13, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
S-221, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
S-128, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Vice Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Chairman Cochran and Vice Chairman Leahy,

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.

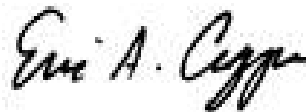
The primary goal of SHIPs is to advise, educate and empower individuals to navigate Medicare, Medicaid, Medigap and long-term care insurance and to help beneficiaries make choices among the vast array of options to best meet their needs. SHIP assisters are well trained and are able to address consumer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

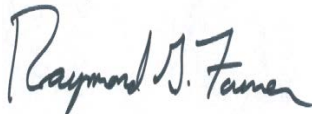
Sincerely,



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



Eric A. Cioppa
NAIC President-Elect
Superintendent
Maine Bureau of Insurance



Raymond G. Farmer
NAIC Vice President
Director
South Carolina Department of Insurance



Gordon I. Ito
NAIC Secretary-Treasurer
Commissioner
Insurance Division
Hawaii Department of Commerce
and Consumer Affairs