

January 6, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington D.C. 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Dick Durbin
Minority Whip
United States Senate
711 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 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, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC)¹ commits to working collaboratively with the new Congress on a non-partisan basis to address those issues that relate to insurance and in developing and implementing any changes to the regulatory landscape. For more than 145 years, the NAIC has supported and strengthened state regulation, and we know firsthand that ensuring the vibrancy, stability, and fairness of our \$7 trillion insurance sector is a shared responsibility and one where the states are uniquely positioned with proven expertise, leadership, and authority.

State insurance regulators must be a critical partner in developing and executing any changes to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to ensure access to affordable coverage, protections for consumers, and stability in our markets. In the six years since passage of the ACA, we have been on the front lines responding to its impact, and we have first-hand expertise and direct authorities that must be considered as Congress pursues any legislative action. Similarly, we have urged the new Administration to work with us on these important issues, particularly as they weigh any near term regulatory changes to provide clarity and certainty for our markets. Our commitment to serve as a critical resource is neither political nor partisan, but rather offered in the spirit of ensuring stable, fair, and competitive health insurance markets for U.S. consumers.

Similarly, as the new Congress considers changes to the financial regulatory landscape established by the Dodd Frank Act, we urge coordination and collaboration with state insurance commissioners. During the financial crisis, while hundreds of banks were failing, the business of insurance was a beacon of relative stability due in large part to our state-based regulatory approach. Although the Dodd Frank Act largely reaffirmed a commitment to state regulation, there were some additional federal authorities that impact our sector, and we intend to be a resource and share our views as Congress weighs any action in these areas.

Finally, the U.S. insurance sector is the largest and most vibrant in the world and supports economic activity across virtually every sector of the American economy. Therefore, beyond obvious areas like healthcare and financial regulation, federal activity and policy in initiatives as diverse as retirement security and long term care, corporate tax, housing finance, fintech, cyber resilience, infrastructure investment, international standard setting, natural disaster resilience, and workers compensation to name just a few, all have an impact on how we regulate insurance. With that in mind, we urge all Members of Congress to seek the input and expertise of their state insurance department for objective advice as Congress contemplates the complex challenges before you. Thank you for your consideration and your leadership.

Respectfully,



Ted 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
NAIC Vice President
Superintendent
Maine Bureau of Insurance



David C. Mattax
NAIC Secretary-Treasurer
Commissioner of Insurance
Texas Department of Insurance

¹ Founded in 1871, the NAIC is the U.S. standard-setting and regulatory support organization created and governed by the chief insurance regulators from the 50 states, the District of Columbia and the five U.S. territories. Through the NAIC, state insurance regulators establish standards and best practices, conduct peer review, and coordinate their regulatory oversight. NAIC members, together with the central resources of the NAIC, form the national system of state-based insurance regulation in the U.S.