

July 19, 2017

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,



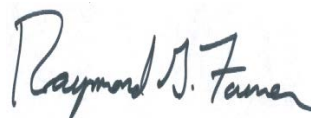
Theodore K. Nickel
NAIC President
Commissioner
Wisconsin Office of the
Commissioner of Insurance



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

Handwritten signature of Eric A. Cioppa in black ink.

Eric A. Cioppa
NAIC Vice President
Superintendent
Maine Bureau of Insurance

Handwritten signature of Raymond G. Farmer in black ink.

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