



March 12, 2018

The Honorable Senator Robert Casey
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510

Dear Senator Casey:

As the acting Insurance Commissioner for your state, I am writing to ask for your support of the bipartisan health insurance marketplace stabilization package to be included in the upcoming spending bill. I urge you to support inclusion of this language in the upcoming spending bill to help control health care costs for middle-class Pennsylvanians and stabilize the individual market in 2019 and beyond.

The market stabilization proposals include three key aims: ensure health insurance carriers be reimbursed for the enhanced cost-sharing plans they offer to lower-income consumers under the law for at least 2019 and 2020; provide Federal funds for reinsurance for at least 2019 and 2020; and amend Section 1332 to create a state waiver process that is clear, timely, and flexible. The inclusion of this language in the spending bill will encourage competition, lower premium costs and provide affordable coverage options for middle-class consumers across the country and throughout Pennsylvania.

We are at a critical cross road. Your action during the upcoming budget discussions will have a real impact to middle-class families in Pennsylvania and nationwide. Please take this opportunity to vote to include the bipartisan stabilization package into the spending bill. Contrary to common messaging, this is not a bail out for insurers. This is an opportunity to give Pennsylvania families a real opportunity to benefit from a more robust marketplace.

I remain committed to working collaboratively with you to address the longer-term issues related to health insurance, but immediate action is needed to stabilize the market for the sake of consumers. I am happy to discuss this with you or your staff to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact my Chief of Staff, Alison Beam, at abeam@pa.gov at any time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jessica K. Altman".

Jessica K. Altman
Acting Commissioner

Office of the Insurance Commissioner

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