



January 31, 2012

VIA ELECTRONIC & REGULAR U.S. MAIL

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
Lieutenant Governor
State of Maryland
State House
Annapolis, MD 21401

Re: Senate Bill 238 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012

Dear Governor Brown,

We are writing as the Presidents, respectively, of the Maryland Association of Health Underwriters and the National Association of Insurance & Financial Advisors of Maryland. The 1,200 members of our two organizations are Maryland small businesses that, together with several thousand of their employees, provide health insurance, life insurance and related financial services to Maryland businesses and individuals throughout the State.

As you know, we worked closely and cooperatively with the Administration during the legislative process that created the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange last year. Our work has continued through the several Advisory Committees that were formed under that legislation as well as in numerous meetings that have resulted in the introduction of Senate Bill 238 – Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Act of 2012.

We are pleased to advise you that the Joint Legislative Committee of our two organizations has voted unanimously to support SB 238. We are also recommending that our members communicate our support to individual legislators during this year's legislative session.

In particular, we wish to express our gratitude to certain members of the Administration team with whom we have worked. These include DHMH Secretary and Exchange Board Chairman Joshua Sharfstein, Office of Health Care Reform Director Carolyn Quattrocki, Executive Director of the Exchange Becca Pearce and Insurance Commissioner Therese Goldsmith. With their assistance, we were able to resolve several complicated issues before the legislation was filed.

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown
January 31, 2012
Page Two

On behalf of our members and all insurance producers in Maryland, we appreciate the constructive approach that the Administration has taken in building the Maryland Health Benefit Exchange, and we look forward to working with you as the process of implementing federal health care reform in Maryland continues.

Very truly yours,



R. Dane Rianhard
President
Maryland Association of Health Underwriters



Steve Aquino
President
National Association of Insurance &
Financial Advisors of Maryland

cc: Joshua M. Sharfstein, Secretary & Chairman
Therese M. Goldsmith, Commissioner
Rebecca Pearce, Executive Director
Carolyn Quattrocki, Director