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Commissioner Thanks Senate Committee for Yes Vote on Market Stability

Amendment Positions State to Respond Quickly to Federal Changes, Mitigate Rate Increases

CONCORD, NH – Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny thanks the members of the New Hampshire Senate Health and Human Services Committee for unanimously approving yesterday an amendment that would ensure the state has the ability to take steps that may be needed to help stabilize the individual health insurance market in New Hampshire.

The amendment, to House Bill 469, would authorize the New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner, operating under legislative oversight and with the cooperation of Governor Chris Sununu, to seek a federal waiver that would support or help to fund the availability and price-stability of health insurance in the state. The amendment also would authorize the Insurance Department and the [New Hampshire Health Plan](#) to investigate other options for assisting the individual market, such as an “invisible high-risk pool” that would help insurers mitigate costs on high-cost individuals behind the scenes, without affecting the person’s coverage or premium rates.

The amended bill will now proceed to the full Senate and then to the House for a vote.

“I commend Senators Bradley, Avar, Gray, Fuller Clark, and Hennessey for taking swift action yesterday to empower New Hampshire to act quickly and flexibly to keep our insurance markets stable and accessible,” said New Hampshire Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny. “I urge the full Senate and House to follow suit and vote in favor of this amendment.”

While the amendment would give the Insurance Department the authority to consider a range of options to assist the individual market, it is important to note that the amendment does not authorize a waiver of the Affordable Care Act’s preexisting condition coverage requirement.

“Under no circumstances would I seek to limit New Hampshire residents’ access to health insurance,” said Commissioner Sevigny. “In fact, such a waiver is not allowed under current law. The New Hampshire Insurance Department’s role is to ensure that people have insurance companies and plans to choose from as well as premium costs that remain stable.”

To read the full text of the amendment:

http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/bill_status/billtext.aspx?sy=2017&txtFormat=amend&id=2017-1872S

About the New Hampshire Insurance Department

The New Hampshire Insurance Department’s mission is to promote and protect the public good by ensuring the existence of a safe and competitive insurance marketplace through the development and enforcement of the insurance laws of the State of New Hampshire. For more information, visit www.nh.gov/insurance.

