

REPORT OF THE
ARKANSAS HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE LEGISLATIVE
OVERSIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE
of the
Arkansas Legislative Council

August 16, 2018

Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair

Representative Jim Dotson, Co-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) Legislative Oversight Subcommittee met Thursday, August 16, 2018, in Committee Room B of the Multi-Agency Complex (MAC) in Little Rock, Arkansas. The subcommittee heard testimony regarding the following items:

- 1) Greg Hatcher, Chair, AHIM Board of Directors, and Angela Lowther, Director of the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace, discussed recent activities, yearly financials, and staffing of AHIM. It was noted that the staff is down to 10 employees, with several staff members performing multiple job functions for AHIM. Ms. Lowther reviewed the basic functions of AHIM and those required by federal regulation and the Arkansas Code. Much discussion centered on the possibility of these functions being transferred to the Arkansas Insurance Department.
- 2) Allen Kerr, Insurance Commissioner, Arkansas Insurance Department (AID), stated that the payment of the federal risk adjustment payments have not effected health insurance plan rates in Arkansas. He told the subcommittee that the health insurance rates in Arkansas have been very stable over the last few years when compared to other states in the nation.
- 3) J. Craig Wilson, JD, MPS, Director, Health Policy, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI), discussed the activities of individual health insurance markets in the United States over the last few years. He discussed how the markets vary greatly from state to state, depending on the number of carriers offering plans. Mr. Wilson discussed what states are doing to stabilize their markets and stated the market in Arkansas is very stable when compared to other states.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Ronald Caldwell, Co-Chair

Representative Deborah Ferguson, Co-Chair