

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

December 20, 2018

Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair

Representative Jim Dotson, Co-Chair

Dear Co-Chairs:

The Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) Oversight Subcommittee met Thursday, December 20, 2018, in Room 130 of the State Capitol in Little Rock, Arkansas. The subcommittee heard testimony from AHIM and the Arkansas Insurance Department (AID).

Subcommittee members expressed concern that after last month's meeting of the subcommittee and the recommendation to lower the user fee from 1.25% to 1.0%, that the AHIM Board had taken no action to reduce their recommendation to 1%. The response from the AHIM Board was that it was waiting on the Open Enrollment numbers for 2019 which they received yesterday from CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services).

Mark Meadors, Vice Chair, Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace Board of Directors, and Angela Lowther, Director, Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace; reported that the nationwide enrollment numbers were down 4.2%, but the enrollment in Arkansas was only down 1.75%. They noted that Arkansas spent much less on navigators and advertising than other states.

Insurance Commissioner Allen Kerr answered questions about the possible transfer of duties from AHIM. He stated that there was duplication between duties of AHIM and the duties of AID. He said AID could perform all those functions of AHIM with only one (1) additional staff person.

After lots of discussion over the past several meetings, Senator Jason Rapert made a motion which was seconded that the functions currently being performed by the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace, be transferred to the Arkansas Insurance Department and corresponding legislation be drafted to facilitate that transfer. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Ronald Caldwell

Representative Deborah Ferguson