

REPORT OF THE

Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) Oversight Committee

**To The
Arkansas Legislative Council**

December 15, 2017

Senator Bill Sample, Co-Chair

Representative Jim Dotson, Co-Chair

Co-Chairs:

The Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) Oversight Subcommittee met Thursday, December 14, 2017, in Committee Room B, Multi-Agency Complex (MAC) in Little Rock, Arkansas. The subcommittee heard testimony regarding the following items:

1. Insurance Commissioner, Allen Kerr, discussed the premium increases approved for 2018 for each health insurance company. He noted that changes in rates were forced this year due to the ending of the Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) payments to the insurance companies, as well as, the implementation of a new federal tax against health insurers.
2. Joe Thompson, MD, MPH, Director, Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI), discussed a handout which showed the silver-level health insurance plan and the cost-sharing reduction breakdown. The handout (developed by ACHI) showed the cost of the plan to persons with various income levels. He also discussed a handout which showed how Arkansas' uninsured rates have decreased, compared with other states around the country; and how our insurance rates have increased at a slower rate than other states.
3. Max Greenwood, Director, Government and Media Relations, Arkansas Blue Cross/Blue Shield; Michael Stock, President and CEO, QualChoice; and John Ryan, President and CEO, Arkansas Health & Wellness—Ambetter (Centene); discussed their companies' plans being offered on the 2018 Marketplace Exchange. They explained how the removal of the Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) payments have impacted their rate requests for 2018.
4. Greg Hatcher, Chair; and Angela Lowther, Director, of the Arkansas Health Insurance Marketplace (AHIM) Board of Directors; discussed the progress of the 2018 open enrollment. For 2018 through week six of the open enrollment period, the average monthly premiums are \$115 more expensive than in 2017, however, the average Advanced Premium Tax Credit (APTC) is \$132 higher than in 2017.

Respectfully Submitted,

Senator Ronald Caldwell, Senate Co-Chair

Representative Deborah Ferguson, House Co-Chair