



State of Wisconsin / OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Scott Walker, Governor
Theodore K. Nickel, Commissioner

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THE HONORABLE SCOTT WALKER
GOVERNOR
ROOM 115 EAST
STATE CAPITOL
MADISON, WI 53707

RE: Wisconsin Policy Options for Expanded 1332 Waiver(s)
2017 Wisconsin Act 138: Required Recommendation Report

Dear Governor Walker,

Per 2017 Wisconsin Act 138, I respectfully submit the required recommendation report in consultation with Horizon Government Affairs on implementing a waiver under s. 601.83 (1) (b).

Since the Affordable Care Act (ACA), insurers have left the market, reduced service areas and increased costs, which left Wisconsin consumers with fewer coverage options and double-digit premium increases. Under your leadership, bipartisan support by the Wisconsin Legislature and flexibilities granted by the Trump Administration, Wisconsin created the Wisconsin Health Care Stability Plan – a program intended to reverse the double-digit increases in Wisconsin’s individual health insurance market under the ACA.

Based on rate filings received by my office, and an analysis conducted by an independent firm Wakely, the Wisconsin Health Care Stability Plan *dropped* 2019 premium rates in Wisconsin’s individual health insurance market on a weighted average by 4.2 percent from 2018 rates, and by an estimated 10 percent as compared to without the program.

With this report, we aim to find a path to build upon the success of the Wisconsin Health Care Stability Plan. In developing recommendations, we considered and included the impacts of creating a high-risk pool or an invisible high-risk pool; funding of consumer health savings accounts; expanding consumer plan choices, including catastrophic plans or coverage and new low-cost plan options; and implementing any other approach that will lower consumer costs, stabilize the insurance market, or expand the availability of private insurance coverage.

Governor, thank you for your leadership on this important issue. We expect this report will provide great value to the next administration and legislature. This recommendation report is also made available on our website at oci.wi.gov.

Respectfully Submitted,

Theodore K. Nickel
Commissioner

ENCLOSURE