



Senate Bill 59

Maryland Health Benefit Exchange – Small Employers – Special Enrollment Period and Marketing

Finance Committee

Position: Favorable with Amendment

Madame Chair Griffith and Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

NAIFA-MD (“The National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors – Maryland Chapter”) appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill 59. NAIFA-MD is made up of insurance agents and advisors, financial advisors and financial planners, investment advisors, broker/dealers, multiline agents, health insurance and employee benefits specialists, and more. We are the closest to the consumer and provide products, services, and guidance that increase financial literacy in our society, protect their clients against life’s inherent risks, help hard-working Americans prepare for retirement, and create financial security and prosperity so their clients can leave a legacy for future generations.

We support Senate Bill 59 with respect to the \$5m allocated for marketing, outreach, and programs to small business and nonprofit employers and their employees for the purpose of facilitating enrollment in health insurance coverage. However, we do have concerns with the special open enrollment period described on the top of page 4. We believe there is enough opportunity and outreach for people to get insured. Additionally, on January 1, 2020, a new form of a Health Reimbursement Account (“HRA”), called an Individual Consumer Health Reimbursement Account (“ICHRA”) was created to give individuals further opportunity to get

enrolled. Given this recent advent we think it is prudent to allow more time for this to take hold so we can evaluate its effectiveness.

Sincerely,

Brett Lininger

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