

SENATE OF VIRGINIA

FRANK W. WAGNER

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COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:
COMMERCE AND LABOR, CHAIR
FINANCE
REHABILITATION AND SOCIAL SERVICES
RULES

January 23, 2017

Ms. Michele L. Chesser, Ph.D., Executive Director
Joint Commission on Health Care
PO Box 1322
Richmond, VA 23218

Dear Ms. Chesser,

For the third straight year, legislation has come before the Senate Committee for Commerce and Labor regarding expanding access to Medicare supplement policies for individuals under the age of 65. I respectfully request the Joint Commission on Health Care (JCHC) review the subject matter underlying Senate Bill 1351.

The matter was referred following the 2015 Session to the Health Insurance Reform Commission (HIRC) for review. The Bureau of Insurance, at the direction of HIRC, surveyed insurance companies to determine the type of Medicare policies the company would offer and the estimated cost. The study did not review approaches in the roughly 30 states that currently require such coverage nor assess the impact on those Virginians who are not able to obtain a supplemental policy.

In 2000, the Joint Commission on Health Care conducted a comprehensive study of a number of health insurance issues, including the availability of Medicare supplement policies to those under the age of 65 and issued House Document 94. Given the number of Virginians who receive disability has risen from about 229,000 to almost 350,000 people since 1999 and the significant increased cost of health care, the issue is ripe for another review.

I respectfully request the Joint Commission on Health Care review the issues relating to access to Medigap policies by those who are disabled and under the age of 65.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Frank W. Wagner".

Frank W. Wagner

cc: The Honorable R. Creigh Deeds