

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS
BANKING
INDIAN AFFAIRS
VETERANS' AFFAIRS
HOMELAND SECURITY AND
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

United States Senate

July 6, 2017

Michael Frank, President and CEO
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Montana
PO Box 4309
Helena, MT 59604

Jerry Dworak, CEO
Montana Health CO-OP
PO Box 5358
Helena, MT 59604

Todd Lovshin, VP and Montana Regional Director
PacificSource
828 Great Northern Boulevard Suite 101
Helena, MT 59601

Dear Mr. Frank, Mr. Dworak, and Mr. Lovshin:

I write to you regarding your proposed insurance premium rates for 2018. It is important to me that Montanans have clear information about decisions that affect their pocketbooks. That is why I am requesting that you help me bring transparency to the premium rate filing process by answering a few questions about the impact of current uncertainty on your rate proposals.

Health insurers, like any business, and Montanans need certainty to make smart and efficient decisions. Unfortunately, some lawmakers are creating unnecessary uncertainty by pushing a secretive proposal that has left many in the dark. This uncertainty has reportedly caused your businesses and others across the country to propose to increase Americans' premium rates for 2018. Additionally, the House of Representatives continues to threaten to end cost-sharing reduction (CSR) payments that help 22,000 Montanans pay their deductibles, copays, and other out-of-pocket costs.

I would appreciate answers to the following questions to ensure Montanans and the policymakers who represent them are able to make sound decisions based on the best available information:

- What impact has the uncertainty regarding the future of our health care system had on your proposed premiums for 2018?
- Did it lead to an increase in these proposed rates? If so, please quantify to the extent possible what impact each factor (i.e. lack of certainty on CSRs, enforcement of the requirement to purchase insurance, legislation to overhaul health care) has had on any increases.
- What would your proposed premiums look like without any of this uncertainty?

I appreciate your timely responses to these questions. I remain committed to working with Republicans, Democrats and Independents to ensure Montanans have access affordable health care coverage, and this additional transparency will help us meet that goal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jon Tester". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "J" and a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Jon Tester