

Alexander-Murray Bill:

The Best Chance for Insurance Market Stabilization



November 2017

The Trump administration announced in October it would no longer complete Cost Sharing Reduction (CSR) payments to insurance companies around the country. This move resulted in an average premium increase of 20 percent nationwide. Premiums for silver-level plans in Idaho were nearly 40 percent higher.

Congress is currently considering bipartisan legislation, known as the Alexander-Murray bill, which will stabilize the insurance market and lower costs for everyone. Here is what you need to know about this bill and how to take action to support its passage:

□ CSR Payments Would be Guaranteed for Two Years

The Alexander-Murray bill guarantees CSR payments for the next two years, which will lower costs for consumers, and keep insurers in the health care marketplace, by providing enough certainty for them to set reasonable rates and policies.

□ The Legislation Would Lower the Federal Deficit by Billions of Dollars

The Trump administration's decision to end CSR payments adds to the deficit because it triggers an increase in federal spending on tax credits. Because the tax credits are pegged to the price of premiums, ending CSR payments will result in more spending by the federal government. The CBO estimates that passing Alexander-Murray would decrease the deficit by \$3.8 billion.

□ Premiums Could Be Lowered by as Much as 20 percent Nationwide

In Idaho, Department of Insurance Director Dean Cameron asserted that "...if the Federal Government committed to funding CSRs, silver rates could be reduced by over 20 percent." These payments allow insurers to offer more affordable plans to consumers who otherwise couldn't purchase them. Ensuring the continuation of CSR payments would lead to hundreds of dollars per month in premium savings and more enrollees.

□ Alexander-Murray is a Bipartisan Deal

The summer showed us that cooperating across party lines is the only way to pass legislation and create substantial change. In an increasingly partisan environment, the Alexander-Murray legislation has been the only path forward forged in cooperation, rather than along party lines. It represents a chance to work together for the common good.

TAKE ACTION — You can Help Influence the Healthcare Debate!

Make your voice heard, and insist our senators vote to stabilize the market. Use our online action tool to contact Idaho members of Congress and let them know you care about preserving affordable insurance for all Idahoans. Mailing, emailing, calling, or sending a Tweet is quick and easy!

www.ClosetheGapIdaho.org/EmailAction/

