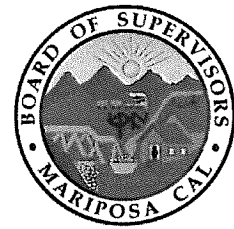




# MARIPOSA COUNTY

Board of Supervisors • (209) 966-3222



## **RESOLUTION - ACTION REQUESTED 2016-356**

MEETING: July 12, 2016

TO: The Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Carrier, District V Supervisor

RE: Letter Supporting Funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Program

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### **RECOMMENDATION AND JUSTIFICATION:**

Approve a Letter Supporting Funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP); and Authorize the Board of Supervisors Chair to Sign the Letter. The Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS) measure that eliminates funding for SHIPs. This program provides free assistance to Medicare beneficiaries in navigating the complex world of Medicare coverage, as well as helping to resolve fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, appeals, and enrollment in low-income health assistance programs.

The House Labor-HHS Appropriations Committee has not yet finalized their spending plan, and the National Associations of Area Agencies on Aging are urging local governments and citizens to contact their Congress Members and urge them to support fully funding SHIPs. Mariposa County is a member of the Area 12 Agency on Aging, which provides critical funding to our senior assistance programs.

### **BACKGROUND AND HISTORY OF BOARD ACTIONS:**

The Board has supported letters pertaining to issues that will ultimately benefit the citizens of Mariposa County.

### **ALTERNATIVES AND CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION:**

Do not approve the letter. Individual Board members may draft their own letters which may carry the same weight as a letter endorsed by the entire Board.

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

**SHIP Letter of Support (DOCK)**

### **CAO RECOMMENDATION**

Requested Action Recommended

  
Mary Hodson, CAO 7/6/2016

**RESULT:** ADOPTED BY CONSENT VOTE [UNANIMOUS]  
**MOVER:** Rosemarie Smallcombe, District I Supervisor  
**SECONDER:** Marshall Long, District III Supervisor  
**AYES:** Smallcombe, Jones, Long, Cann, Carrier

# Mariposa County Board of Supervisors



MARY HODSON  
County Administrative Officer

RENE LAROCHE  
Clerk of the Board

P. O. Box 784  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
(209) 966-3222  
(800) 736-1252

Fax (209) 966-5147

[www.mariposacounty.org/board](http://www.mariposacounty.org/board)

District 1 ... ROSEMARIE SMALLCOMBE  
District 2 ..... MERLIN JONES  
District 3 ..... MARSHALL LONG  
District 4 ..... KEVIN CANN  
District 5 ..... JOHN CARRIER

July 12, 2016

Honorable Tom McClintock  
United States Representative  
2331 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP)

Dear Representative McClintock:

The Senate Appropriations Committee recently approved a Labor-Health and Human Services (HHS) measure that eliminates funding for State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs). The Mariposa County Board of Supervisors opposes this recommendation and encourages the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Committee to support these vital programs.

Today's Medicare beneficiary must choose their coverage from an average of 19 Medicare Advantage plans, more than 20 prescription drug plans and a wide variety of supplemental insurance options. Each of the available options has unique premiums, cost sharing, provider networks and coverage rules. For more than 24 years, SHIPs have advised, educated, and empowered individuals to navigate their State-specific Medicare choices and find the coverage that works best for their needs. In addition, SHIPs have helped to resolve fraud and abuse issues, billing problems, appeals, and enrollments in low-income health assistance programs.

Eliminating SHIPs will leave millions of citizens without the free, personalized and unbiased support they need to compare increasingly complex coverage options, appeal coverage denials and apply for financial assistance and navigate the increasingly complex world of Medicare benefits. With 10,000 baby boomers aging into Medicare each day it is critical that SHIP not be eliminated or compromised. As the House Labor-HHS Appropriations Committee has not yet finalized their spending plan, we respectfully request that you not jump ship on SHIP but rather give our seniors your full support.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,

JOHN CARRIER  
Chairman

cc: Senator Feinstein  
Senator Boxer  
National Association of Counties  
Area 12 Agency on Aging