



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

JOHN ELIAS BALDACCI

GOVERNOR

September 12, 2008

The Honorable Tom Allen
1127 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mike Michaud
1724 Longworth
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 5840 – Insurance Information Act of 2008

Dear Congressmen Allen and Michaud:

I write to express my strong opposition to H.R. 5840 (“The Insurance Information Act of 2008”) and to encourage you to vote NO. H.R. 5840 would adversely impact and erode consumer protections currently provided by state insurance regulation.

A new federal bureaucracy would be established by H.R. 5840, the Office of Insurance Information (OII), and would provide a mechanism for preemption of state laws. The establishment of the OII coupled with a ready mechanism for facilitating preemption of state laws is but one step in the move toward federal regulation of insurance. Of equal concern is my belief that H.R. 5840, even absent full federal regulation, could significantly hamper state insurance regulators’ ability to continue to protect insurance consumers and private markets.

As you are aware, Maine’s consumers rely heavily on the protections provided by a well regulated insurance marketplace. Whether health insurance during a time of a personal medical crisis or homeowners insurance following a disaster such as the devastating floods of this past year or business coverage provided Maine’s small business owners such as the Washburn and Doughty Shipyard in Boothbay, Mainers need to know the insurance companies will be sufficiently capitalized and held to the standards of Maine’s insurance code. I am proud to say Maine has an active regulatory agency assuring each and every Maine policyholder receives the service and claim payments they deserve. Movement toward stripping the authority of Maine’s Superintendent and removing regulation to the federal arena will do nothing to assure Maine’s citizens continue to receive prompt and meaningful attention when disaster strikes.



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PHONE: (207) 287-3531 (Voice)

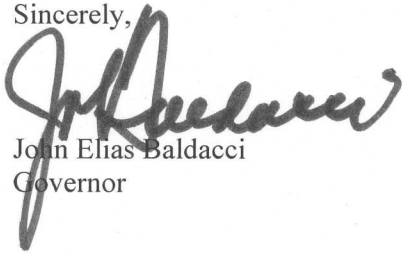
888-577-6690 (TTY)

www.maine.gov

FAX: (207) 287-1034

I urge you to vote No on H.R. 5840 and lend your voice in support of Maine's rich history of advocacy for and protection of her citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Elias Baldacci". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "B".

John Elias Baldacci
Governor

Cc: Senator Olympia Snowe
Senator Susan Collins
Mila Kofman, Superintendent
G. Steven Rowe, Attorney General