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**MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES HHS DETERMINATION OF  
EFFECTIVE HEALTH INSURANCE RATE REVIEW PROGRAM**

**Baltimore, MD** The Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO), a part of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), has determined that the Maryland Insurance Administration (MIA) will review proposed health insurance rate increases in accordance with criteria for an Effective Rate Review Program set forth in new federal regulations under the Affordable Care Act. This determination means that CCIIO will adopt the MIA's decisions regarding the reasonableness of increases in health insurance premiums in the individual and small-group insurance markets in the state, rather than conducting its own review of proposed rate increases in Maryland.

"The MIA is committed to protecting consumers against unreasonable increases in health insurance rates," said Insurance Commissioner Therese M. Goldsmith. "We are pleased with the federal government's assessment of the effectiveness of our rate review process, and will continue to improve that process and to make it more transparent to consumers."

Using grant monies received from HHS, the MIA engaged Oliver Wyman Actuarial Consulting Inc. to make recommendations about how to improve the agency's rate review process for health insurance. The MIA is reviewing these recommendations, as well as public comments received before and during a recent public hearing, to determine how best to provide greater oversight, transparency and accountability.

The MIA, founded as the Maryland Insurance Division in 1872, is an independent state agency located in downtown Baltimore. The agency regulates Maryland's \$26 billion insurance industry and makes certain that insurance companies, health plans and producers (agents and brokers) comply with Maryland insurance law. The MIA also licenses over 110,000 producers and approximately 1,500 insurance companies, regulates insurance rates, monitors insurer solvency, investigates consumer complaints and travels across the state to provide consumers with educational materials on insurance. These materials are available at [www.mdinsurance.state.md.us](http://www.mdinsurance.state.md.us).

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