

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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July 5, 2016

Ted Surh
President & CEO
Agency On Aging of South Central Connecticut
1 Long Wharf Drive, Suite 1L
New Haven, CT 06511-5949

JUL 11 2016

Dear Ted,

Thank you for contacting me about funding for Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs). I appreciate your correspondence and hope that you find this response helpful.

As you know, SHIPs provide one-on-one, in-depth insurance counseling and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, and caregivers at no cost. The advice they provide regarding various coverage options available, including Medicare Parts A and B, Medicare Advantage, and Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Part D), is critical. By helping Medicare beneficiaries navigate the complexities of Medicare, SHIPs ensure more informed decisions about health coverage, which in turn cuts costs and improves access to quality healthcare.

Please know I am a strong supporter of the important work SHIPs do in our communities, including CHOICES in Connecticut, and I share your concern that the Senate Appropriations Committee eliminated funding for SHIPs for Fiscal Year 2017. As the budget process moves forward, I will continue to look for ways to restore funding for SHIPs, as they are an invaluable resource to seniors and persons with disabilities in Connecticut.

Rest assured that I remain committed to the fight to support Medicare and defend it from partisan attempts to undermine it. While we have serious federal budgetary issues to confront in the coming years, I strongly oppose any effort to dismantle this safety net, through privatization or any other means.

Thank you again for contacting me about this matter. I appreciate hearing from you and assure you that I will always do my best to represent the views of my constituents in the Senate. In the future, please do not hesitate to call me in my Connecticut office at (860) 549-8463 or in my Washington office at (202) 224-4041.

Every best wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Murphy', written in a cursive style.

Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator

CSM/cp