

**TESTIMONY OF GORDON H. SMITH, ESQ., EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
OF THE MAINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION**

**IN SUPPORT OF**

**ERIC CIOPPA AS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE BUREAU OF INSURANCE  
BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE  
AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
SEPTEMBER 26, 2011**

Senator Whittemore, Representative Richardson and members of the Committee, I am Gordon Smith of East Winthrop, Maine testifying today on behalf of both the Maine Medical Association, which I serve as Executive Vice President, and Health Care for Maine, which is an alliance of nine organizations that work together to advance health care reform. These organizations include the MMA; Maine AARP; the American Cancer Society, Maine Division; the Maine Center for Economic Policy; Consumers for Affordable Healthcare; Maine Equal Justice Partners; the Maine Parent Federation; the Maine People's Alliance; and the Maine People's Resource Center.

The Association and the members of Health Care for Maine enthusiastically support the nomination of Eric Cioppa as Superintendent of the Bureau of Insurance. We believe that he is well suited for this challenging and critically important position. Having worked at the Bureau since 1988, Mr. Cioppa has a wealth of experience in the issues facing the Bureau, the industry and the State. I have personally interacted with him on several issues over the past twenty three years including medical liability insurance, workers' compensation and, of course, health insurance. I have always found him to be fair, professional, well prepared and considerate. He has a very calm demeanor, which is a real asset in these difficult times, which are so frequently marred by hyperbole and extremes.

Given the current situation with both the Affordable Care Act and P.L. 2011 Chapter 90, the position of Insurance Superintendent has become one of the most important positions in state government. We are pleased that Governor LePage has nominated an experienced insurance regulator for the position.

As Mr. Cioppa indicated in his remarks, he currently serves on various NAIC working groups. In my opinion, he will be a welcome addition around the NAIC table as Superintendent.

As Maine moves forward with implementing both federal and state reforms, we look forward to working with Mr. Cioppa and Bureau staff. Speaking for both health care providers and consumers, I believe that he will lead the Bureau in implementing the reforms enacted and get us to where the State needs to be – that is, ensuring affordable

health insurance coverage through both private and public plans for every child and adult in our State. We believe strongly that until all our citizens have coverage, none of us can be secure in our own coverages.

I ask that you give the nominee a favorable vote and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.