

Marketplace:

I have been an Insurance broker mainly for Life and Health for 20 years. My staff and I are very familiar with the Marketplace. The marketplace application process was difficult at the beginning which later has been improved and its customer services continues to be on par. At our agency, the marketplace have helped about 300 members each year to have health coverage especially the minority ethnic group. During pandemic in 2020 after OEP was closed, the marketplace re-opened for SEP which was great. The ongoing funding for marketplace will help individual and family to have health coverage. Health coverage provides confidence that residents would not be in financial burden when catastrophic event happened. The CSR, cost sharing reduction, is a great program. They were stories of recipients who were able to have surgery or treatments. Without marketplace those would not seek for medical treatment and could possibly wait until the symptoms were severe and rushed to emergency. This is not the right method to seek medical care.

In general, without marketplace and subsidy, more than 50% of residents would opt out and take a risk of no health insurance/coverage due to high premium. For healthy community & country, every residents need to have health coverage. Marketplace is an important place to provide health coverage they need.

More importantly, The Coronavirus pandemic has such a major impact on mental health. Imagine without an affordable health coverage via marketplace, how many residents would be unable to seek help.