Contact Info: rcatalanello@nola.com

Link to Article: http://www.nola.com/

Email Subject: Letter to the Editor

Hi,

I'm submitting the following letter on behalf of the CEO of the National Association of Health Underwriters, Janet Trautwein. Is there any chance you might be able to run it?

Best, Kelly

-----

Kelly Loussedes National Association of Health Underwriters 202-595-3074

Dear Editor,

Louisiana officials shouldn't worry about a shortage of experts to help residents enroll in the state's health insurance exchange. Louisiana's corps of licensed, professional agents has long provided the guidance that Bayou State residents need – and can do so in the new marketplaces, too.

Consumers already count on agents to educate them about their coverage options. A recent Aflac survey found that 78 percent of consumers would like to have the guidance of an agent when shopping for health insurance.

Louisianans with access to agents may also benefit from lower premiums. A study from the University of Minnesota found that premiums were 13 percent lower in countries with higher populations of agents than in those with fewer agents.

Sincerely,

Janet Trautwein Executive Vice President and CEO National Association of Health Underwriters 1212 New York Ave. NW, Suite 1100 Washington, DC 20005