



Proclamation

WHEREAS, there are over 1.56 million Illinoisans 65 years of age or older on Medicare and more than 253,392 Illinoisans who are under 65 and have a disability who are on Medicare; and,

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, the number of Illinoisans 65 years of age or older is estimated to increase to more than 2.4 million by the year 2030; and,

WHEREAS, elderly and disabled people who lack a social support network can be unaware of or overwhelmed by their Medicare benefits or may be unable to access and complete Medicare application procedures; and,

WHEREAS, the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) was originated in 1988 by the Illinois Department of Insurance in order to educate the citizens of Illinois about Medicare benefits and programs through community organizations, senior citizen centers, and the media; and,

WHEREAS, since its inception, more than 1,500 SHIP volunteers have contributed nearly 300,000 hours to assist over 307,000 clients, saving Illinois' citizens more than \$56.4 million in customer service costs; and,

WHEREAS, hundreds of active SHIP volunteers are truly admirable citizens, contributing their time and talents through more than 180 local SHIP sites throughout Illinois in order to improve the lives of Illinois' Medicare beneficiaries; and,

WHEREAS, consistent with the Department of Insurance's consumer education and protection priorities, SHIP volunteers visit eligible Illinois residents in every county, helping our seniors and disabled citizens work through the often confusing array of Medicare insurance options:

THEREFORE, I, Pat Quinn, Governor of the State of Illinois, do hereby proclaim November 15-19, 2010, as **SENIOR HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM WEEK** in Illinois, and encourage the people of the Land of Lincoln to recognize the important contributions of the SHIP volunteers who assist our elderly and disabled citizens.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Illinois to be affixed.



Done at the Capitol, in the City of Springfield,
this ELEVENTH *day of* NOVEMBER, *in*
the Year of Our Lord two thousand and
TEN, *and of the State of Illinois*
the one hundred and NINETY-SECOND

Deese White
SECRETARY OF STATE

Pat Quinn
GOVERNOR