

THE GOVERNOR

September 1, 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius Secretary U.S. Department of Health & Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

I am pleased to endorse the Pennsylvania Insurance Department's application for the United States Department of Health and Human Services Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight State Planning and Establishment Grant for the Affordable Care Act's Exchanges.

In July, I established the Commonwealth Health Care Reform Implementation Committee and the Commonwealth Health Care Reform Implementation Advisory Committee to assist Pennsylvania in the execution of the Affordable Care Act. This grant will provide vital information to these two groups as they develop an implementation plan for Pennsylvania's Health Insurance Exchange. In conjunction with the Committees' work, this grant will assist Pennsylvania in creating a successful exchange that will provide useful and timely assistance to individuals and small employers and improve their access to health insurance coverage and health care.

Pennsylvania intends to establish a state-wide Exchange to provide health insurance coverage and integrate the Commonwealth's Medical Assistance Program, Children's Health Insurance Program, and other public benefit programs. We will identify the diverse needs of consumers, assess the current market and available programs and develop a plan to provide meaningful information and choice to consumers. Through the grant, we will be able to determine optimal technical infrastructure enhancements and methods for making eligibility and enrollment easy, providing on-going service to individuals, and improving access to health insurance and health care. We will develop a plan that will have flexibility and will facilitate seamless coordination and transfer of individuals between the different systems within the exchange.

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Our goal is to develop an implementation plan that will ensure that the Pennsylvania Exchange is well-governed, sustainable, and responsive to individual and group consumers, payers, and other stakeholders. This grant will ensure that the Commonwealth can meet those goals.

Sincerely,
Edural G. Raylli

Edward G. Rendell Governor