



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

March 5, 2013

The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor of West Virginia
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Dear Governor Tomblin:

I am pleased to inform you that West Virginia has received conditional approval to establish a State Partnership Exchange for 2014. We commend West Virginia for taking this important step towards providing affordable health insurance for consumers. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone on the path to establishing an Exchange for the people of West Virginia.

Conditional approval reflects the substantial progress West Virginia has made and an expectation that West Virginia will be ready to assist in providing affordable, quality coverage for consumers and small businesses in 2014. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reached this decision based on West Virginia's self-assessment, progress to date, and expected progress across the entire spectrum of Exchange requirements, and the decision is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Demonstrate the ability to perform all required Exchange activities in line with the attestations West Virginia has made in its Exchange Blueprint Application submission; and
2. Comply with regulations and expected progress milestones. During the first year of the program (plan year 2014), approval of State Partnerships will account for a state's need for guidance from CMS and other federal agencies and the time necessary for infrastructure development.

We recognize that West Virginia is working under intense timelines and will work with you to establish benchmark dates that are appropriate and will allow us to monitor West Virginia's progress. CMS will continue its work with the Exchanges, including providing more detailed information directly to West Virginia's Partnership Exchange.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "S".

Kathleen Sebelius