



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

December 7, 2012

The Honorable Chris Gregoire
Governor of Washington
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Governor Gregoire:

I am pleased to let you know that Washington has received conditional approval to establish a State-based Exchange. Congratulations on reaching this significant milestone on the path to establishing an Exchange for the citizens of Washington.

Conditional approval reflects the substantial progress the Washington Exchange has made and an expectation that the Washington Exchange will be ready to provide affordable, quality coverage for consumers and small businesses in 2014.

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) has reached this decision based on Washington Exchange's self-assessment, progress to date, and expected progress across the entire spectrum of Exchange requirements, and is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Timely demonstration of the ability to perform all required Exchange activities in line with the attestations Washington has made in its Exchange Blueprint Application submission;
2. Ongoing compliance with future guidance and regulations. During the first year of the program (plan year 2014), approval of a State-based Exchange will account for timelines related to guidance and infrastructure development; and

Given all that is involved in launching a new program, I want to congratulate you on the progress the Washington Exchange has made in implementing a State-Based Exchange. We look forward to continued collaboration with you and the Washington Health Plan Finder.

CMS will continue its work with the Exchanges, including providing more detailed information directly to your State Exchange, Washington Health Plan Finder .

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius".

Kathleen Sebelius