



PHIL BRYANT
GOVERNOR

November 26, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

The Mississippi Department of Insurance recently submitted a "Declaration Letter" stating its intention to proceed with the creation of a "State-based Exchange." I feel compelled to notify you of my complete disagreement with this move. I am disappointed with the submission of that letter, and I am exploring my options.

I oppose the expansion of the "Affordable Care Act" (ACA) in the State of Mississippi, and I believe the health care exchange is a gateway for that. It is inevitable that such an exchange will be controlled by the federal government, not by the State. The federal government has never provided funds for a program without ultimately seizing control of it. Under the laws, the Department of Human Services has final approval over the rules and regulations of the exchange, making it abundantly clear that the exchange is "State-based" in name only. Further, HHS has done nothing to address this concern, which has been raised repeatedly since the Act's passage. Indeed, HHS has consistently failed to provide necessary guidance and regulations on this incredibly important topic.

There is no doubt that quality health care is of the utmost importance, and I would support the creation of a true state-run, free-market health care exchange. But neither the ACA nor a "State-based Exchange" controlled by the federal government will serve Mississippi well.

Therefore, as Governor, I will continue to resist the expansion of Medicaid and other aspects of the ACA that will have a negative impact on our State economy or its people.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Phil Bryant".

Phil Bryant
Governor

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI • OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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