



MARTIN O'MALLEY
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TTY USERS CALL VIA MD RELAY

July 10, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Suite 739H
Washington, D.C. 20201

RE: Maryland Health Benefit Exchange

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

I write to express the State of Maryland's commitment to the operation of a State-based Health Benefit Exchange. The establishment of Maryland's Exchange is well underway, and we continue to make significant progress with strong support from the State's political leadership and broad-based stakeholder community. The Maryland Health Benefit Exchange Acts of 2011 and 2012 established the Exchange's governance structure, stakeholder process, and policy direction necessary to guide its development and operations. The Exchange's 9-member Board of Trustees was appointed effective June 1, 2011, and it began working immediately to ensure that development of the Exchange would stay on track to meet federal deadlines. As such, we expect the Exchange to obtain certification by January 1, 2013, launch open enrollment for individuals and small businesses by October 1, 2013, and be fully operational by January 1, 2014.

We look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Health and Human Services as we develop Maryland's state-based Exchange. We appreciate the Department's assistance and collaboration as we proceed with implementation, and we look forward to the Exchange's success in helping the State expand access to coverage, reduce costs, and improve the quality of health care for all Marylanders.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Martin O'Malley".

Martin O'Malley
Governor

cc: The Honorable Anthony G. Brown, Lieutenant Governor
Secretary Joshua Sharfstein, M.D., Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and Chair,
Maryland Health Benefit Exchange
Rebecca Pearce, Executive Director, Maryland Health Benefit Exchange