



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

October 1, 2013

Mr. Mike Chaney
Commissioner of Insurance
501 N. West Street, Suite 1001
Woolfolk Building
Jackson, MS 39201

Dear Commissioner Chaney:

I am pleased to inform you that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) is granting the Mississippi Insurance Department (MID) conditional approval to operate a Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) Marketplace as defined under the Affordable Care Act and 45 C.F.R. §§ 155.20, 155.100, and 155.200, as amended effective September 30, 2013 by the Program Integrity: Exchange, SHOP, and Eligibility Appeals; Final Rule, 78 Fed. Reg. 54070 (Aug. 30, 2013). We commend the Mississippi MID for its work towards providing affordable health insurance options for the small businesses of Mississippi.

Conditional approval reflects the expectation that the MID will continue developing a SHOP Marketplace (known as One, Mississippi™) that is compliant with the Affordable Care Act and that the MID will be ready to provide affordable, quality coverage to small business owners and their employees in 2014. The responsibilities of One, Mississippi™, include consumer and stakeholder engagement and support (including funding Navigators for the State-based SHOP-only Marketplace) and the performance of plan management activities relating to the certification of qualified health plans (QHPs) to be offered through the SHOP in time for enrollment in 2014.

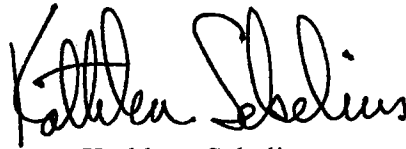
CMS has reached this decision for conditional approval based on the Mississippi Exchange Blueprint Application submitted in 2012, on discussions between the MID and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) in the summer of 2013, and on reasonable assurances provided to CMS by the MID regarding the ability of One, Mississippi™ to provide the functionality of a SHOP Marketplace for small businesses in 2014. Mississippi made these assurances through the MID's submission of an Exchange Blueprint Application in 2012, as well as through evidence presented at the recent Mississippi SHOP Marketplace Design Review held on September 18, 2013. Conditional approval is contingent upon the following conditions:

1. Ongoing compliance with regulations and progress milestones proposed during the Mississippi SHOP Marketplace Design Review;
2. HHS's expectation that the MID will be prepared to open a State-based SHOP on January 1, 2014; and
3. Continued participation in the Exchange Establishment Review process, including

successful completion of an Implementation Review, including a technology review, prior to December 15, 2013.

A letter detailing the agreed upon project milestones and timelines will be sent directly to your Exchange in the near future. We look forward to continuing to work with One, Mississippi™, to ensure that all Mississippians have access to quality and affordable health care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathleen" and the last name "Sebelius" clearly distinguishable.

Kathleen Sebelius