TED STRICKLAND
GOVERNOR
STATE OF OHIO

August 25, 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Ohio's Application for a State Planning and Establishment Grant for the Affordable Care Act's Exchange

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

Thank you for your leadership in implementing federal health care reform and for making funding available so quickly for states to explore and plan for health care coverage exchanges. Ohio would like to create a new and welcoming front door to health care coverage and we believe that the development of an exchange is important to accomplishing this goal. Establishing a health care coverage exchange to enable Ohioans to explore health insurance options and assess eligibility for public coverage will take a good deal of advanced planning and we are eager to begin work on this quickly.

In order to assess how a health care coverage exchange could work in our state, I support the application of the Ohio Department of Insurance for the State Planning and Establishment Grant for the Affordable Care Act's Exchange that was announced by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services on July 29, 2010. Ohio's application reflects a collaborative effort between the Department of Insurance and our state Medicaid agency, the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services.

I believe the initial steps that these two state agencies have outlined in their grant application will help us determine how an exchange will function in the Ohio market. Through this sort of inter-agency partnership, Ohio will be well positioned to establish this new system for the benefit of our consumers, small businesses and insurance industry.

I remain committed to work in partnership with President Obama and you to implement comprehensive health care reform.

Sincerely,

Ted Strickland

Ted Strickland
Governor, State of Ohio

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