

August 27, 2013

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
US Department of Health and Human Services
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO)
200 Independence Avenue, S.W. - Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals, respectfully request the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) to provide a two-week extension to Washington State for the submission of Washington Qualified Health Plan information. This two-week extension may provide Washington's Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) and the Health Benefit Exchange (HBE) additional time for continued review of Qualified Health Plan submissions so that we may possibly expand the number of plans offered in the Washington HBE to serve low-income consumers.

Nine carriers filed to offer coverage in Washington's Exchange, but currently four carriers have been approved by the OIC. Unfortunately, the approved carriers do not include the three Medicaid managed care plans and one carrier that provides vital coverage in southwest Washington. For individuals who fluctuate between Medicaid and Exchange subsidy eligibility, the lack of continuity between health plans will lead to fragmentation, decreased quality and increased costs of care. The availability of Medicaid managed care plans in the Exchange would preserve patients' relationships with their providers, which is critical for much of the Exchange population as they churn between Medicaid and Exchange coverage.

We are confident that an extension of the August 31 deadline by two-weeks would allow time to resolve the technical issues resulting in the disapproval of these plans. This will take significant effort from the issuers, the Exchange, and the OIC, but we expect all parties to put the necessary resources forward and be flexible to make the Exchange successful and ensure that all patients have access to their trusted providers through a plan of their choice. On August 21, the Exchange Board delayed their vote on qualified health plan certification to allow the Office of the Insurance Commissioner time to work with the disapproved plans to ensure their success in becoming qualified health plans. We respectfully ask CCIIO to grant Washington State until September 15, 2013 to submit issuer rate information.

The organizations and individuals listed below are members of the Healthy Washington Coalition (HWC), which is the state's largest coalition devoted to securing access to high-

quality, affordable health care to all Washingtonians. The Healthy Washington Coalition is a diverse group of stakeholders made up of community organizations, labor unions, faith based groups, provider associations, and many more, dedicated to ensuring quality, affordable health care in Washington State. We appreciate your consideration of this request to extend the HHS deadline for plan submissions until September 15, 2013.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Teresa Mosqueda, Chair of the Healthy Washington Coalition, at tmosqueda@wslc.org or 206.353.5276.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations:

American Cancer Society, Cancer Action Network, WA State

Children's Alliance

Community Health Plan of Washington

Community Health Network of Washington

Doctors for America, WA Chapter

Economic Opportunity Institute

International Community Health Services

Interpreters United, Local 1671

King County Academy of Family Physicians

Lifelong AIDS Alliance

Molina Health Plan of Washington

NARAL Pro-Choice Washington

OneAmerica

Puget Sound Advocates for Retirement Action

Sea Mar Community Health Centers

Service Employees International Union, Local 49

Service Employees International Union, Local 775

Service Employees International Union, Local 925

Service Employees International Union Healthcare 1199

Statewide Poverty Action Network

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 367

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 365

United Food and Commercial Workers, Local 1439

United Food and Commercial Workers United Council of Washington
Washington Academy of Family Physicians
Washington Association of Community & Migrant Health Centers
Washington CAN!
Washington Dental Service Foundation
Washington Federation of State Employees
Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO
Washington State Oral Health Coalition

Individual Coalition Members:

Bonny Mo, concerned citizen
Charles Mayer, MD family physician, concerned citizen
Julianne Moore, concerned citizen
Kate Hunter, concerned citizen
Kathleen Randall, concerned citizen
Martha Castillo, Spanish Interpreter
Patti Kieval, concerned citizen
Rebekah L. Gibbons, RN, concerned citizen
Seth Armstrong, concerned citizen

cc:

Susan Johnson, Regional Director, Region X, HHS
Jennifer M. Cannistra, Executive Secretary to the Department, HHS
Gary Cohen, Deputy Administrator and Director, CCIIO
Chiquita Brooks-Lasure, Deputy Center and Policy Director, CCIIO
Jim Kerr, Acting Deputy Center and Operations Director, CCIIO
Teresa Miller, Acting Director, Insurance Programs Group, CCIIO
Richard Onizuka, CEO, WA Health Benefit Exchange
Mike Kreidler, Commissioner, Office of the Insurance Commissioner
Representative Frank Chopp Speaker of the House, WA State Legislature
Senator Ed Murray, Senate Minority Leader, WA State Legislature
Aisling Kerins, Executive Director of External Relations, Governor Inslee's Office
Washington State Congressional Delegation:

Sen. Patty Murray	Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Sen. Maria Cantwell	Rep. Derek Kilmer
Rep. Suzan DelBene	Rep. Jim McDermott
Rep. Rick Larsen	Rep. David Reichert
Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler	Rep. Adam Smith
Rep. Doc Hastings	Rep. Denny Heck