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

December 13, 2012

The Honorable Gary R. Herbert
Governor of Utah
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-2220

Dear Governor Herbert,

Thank you for your thoughtful letter to the President on December 10th on the fiscal cliff and implementation of the Affordable Care Act. He asked me to respond to your requests regarding implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

I appreciate your questions to me in your letter of November 19th regarding the standards and operation of exchanges. I believe that the Frequently Asked Questions we released earlier this week and the proposed rules issued in November respond to your questions.

As you mentioned in your letter to the President, Utah was among the first states to establish a health insurance exchange, and did so prior to the passage of the ACA. I share your goal to give expanded access to information and choice of private healthcare plans to employers, employees, and consumers, and am pleased that you plan to include individuals and larger businesses in your exchange in the near future. We look forward to working with you toward certifying the Utah exchange, ensuring that consumers and small businesses have access to affordable, high-quality coverage.

As you continue implementation of this new insurance marketplace, I look forward to working with you to establish an exchange for both individuals and businesses. My staff is eager to provide additional assistance to help you complete the work that you have begun. Please contact Gary Cohen, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight, at gary.cohen@cms.hhs.gov for additional information.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius

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