



COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CARE POLICY & FINANCING

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John W. Hickenlooper, Governor • Susan E. Birch MBA, BSN, RN, Executive Director

May 9, 2013

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Office of Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C., 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

Please accept this letter of support for the Connect for Health Colorado application for a Level 2 grant. As the single state Medicaid agency, the Colorado Department of Health Care Policy & Financing has been actively involved in all aspects of health care reform implementation, including planning for the development of the Health Insurance Marketplace.

The Department works closely with Connect for Health and has been doing so since it was authorized by the General Assembly. Department staff members have served on work groups starting in 2011, including the Marketing, Education, Outreach Work Group, the Eligibility Verification and Enrollment Work Group, and the Data Advisory Work Group. In addition teams of staff from the Department and Connect for Health have been meeting weekly to review business, process and operational issues. All decisions impacting Medicaid and Connect for Health are made collaboratively, whether regarding background technology or sharing information with eligibility workers who will be helping potential Medicaid or health insurance marketplace clients apply for health insurance coverage. As Executive Director of the Department, I am an ex officio member of Connect for Health's Board of Directors, supporting collaborative decision making.

As the work of Connect for Health moves forward, the Department will continue to meet regularly with its staff to help ensure that the health insurance marketplace operates seamlessly with the Medicaid and CHP+ programs so that consumers are able to easily access the programs for which they are eligible. The Department is fully committed to developing shared functionalities with the Connect for Health, while taking care not to duplicate efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Susan E. Birch'.

Susan E. Birch MBA, BSN, RN
Executive Director