



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

November 15, 2012

Michael Hash, Interim Director
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue SW, Suite 739H
Washington DC, 20201.

Dear Mr. Hash:

It is with great pride that I provide this Declaration Letter confirming the District of Columbia's ongoing commitment to develop and operate a state-based health benefit exchange, consistent with the authority and requirements of the Affordable Care Act, beginning on October 1, 2013.

At the end of 2011, the Council of the District of Columbia unanimously approved the District of Columbia Health Benefit Exchange Authority Establishment Act, creating an independent authority of the D.C. government fully vested with the powers necessary to establish a health benefit exchange and small business health options program (SHOP) exchange compliant with all federal requirements. I signed the legislation in January and swore in the Authority's Executive Board members in July of this year. The Authority is governed by an eleven-member board that is meeting on a regular basis to review consultant reports, issue contracts, establish policies and procedures, and direct the Executive Director and staff. The Board has the full support of my administration, including my Health Care Finance Director and Commissioner for Insurance, Securities, and Banking.

On October 3, 2012, the Authority's Executive Board voted to participate in the federally managed risk adjustment and reinsurance programs until further notice. Additionally, the District currently intends to utilize the federal service for Advance Premium Tax Credit (APTC) and Cost-Sharing Reduction (CSR) eligibility determinations, but will be making a final determination once additional functional details are made available.

I hereby designate Wayne Turnage, Director of the Department of Health Care Finance, as the primary point of contact regarding establishment of the D.C. Health Benefit Exchange (HBX). Director Turnage is authorized to bind the District of Columbia regarding the HBX and is authorized to complete and sign the Exchange Application.

The District of Columbia remains a proud partner with the federal government and I look forward to further collaboration with you and other federal partners, as we achieve President Obama's vision of universal access to health coverage for all Americans.

Sincerely,


Vincent C. Gray