



C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER
GOVERNOR

October 29, 2013

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

Dear Kathleen,

I write today to respectfully request at least a one-year delay in imposition of the individual mandate for compliance with the health insurance coverage requirements in the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

As you know, the State of Idaho has been working in good faith and with all responsible speed to establish a state-based insurance exchange. I'm sure you also realize that the aggressive timeline for bringing the Idaho exchange online has necessitated our temporary use of federal technology – technology that we all now are painfully aware lacks sufficient functionality to meet the needs of our citizens.

While we appreciate the six-week delay in imposition of the individual mandate announced last week, with no resolution to the federal technology issues in sight it appears that six weeks will be woefully inadequate to the task of ensuring all Idaho consumers have the opportunity to enroll. Given the complexity of the issues involved and the troubled history we all have experienced, a nationwide delay until the federal technology is proven to meet the needs of our citizens is simply a matter of fairness.

Granting at least a 12-month delay also will enable Idaho to complete development of a stand-alone technology platform for our state-based health insurance exchange and bypass the federal process. Together, those steps can help build public confidence in our Idaho efforts as reluctant and skeptical participants in this national enterprise.

I look forward to your timely and positive consideration of this request.

As Always – Idaho, "Esto Perpetua"

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "C.L. Butch Otter". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor of Idaho