

SECRETARY OF LABOR
WASHINGTON

APR 15 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

In compliance with Section 1302(b)(2)(A) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act ("Affordable Care Act") (P. L. 111-148, as amended), I am pleased to transmit the enclosed report "Selected Medical Benefits: A Report from the Department of Labor to the Department of Health and Human Services."

This section of the Affordable Care Act requires the Secretary of Labor to conduct a survey of employer-sponsored health coverage to identify the benefits covered by employers, including multiemployer plans, and provide a report on such survey to the Secretary of Health and Human Services. The enclosed report is intended to help inform your responsibility under the ACA to define essential health benefits that must be offered by qualified health plans.

This report draws on data from the National Compensation Survey (NCS), conducted by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. The NCS provides comprehensive data on employment-based benefits. This report presents data on the coverage of health benefits by employer-provided health plans in the private sector, and is organized in two parts. The first part summarizes published statistics on health benefit coverage from the 2008 and 2009 NCS. The second part presents new results from an analysis of additional health benefits, not included in the previously published reports, for which adequate information was available in the NCS data.

We hope the report will prove useful in providing you with an understanding of the scope of benefits provided under employer-sponsored insurance. We realize that this report will serve as just one of many sources of information you will consider in the process of defining essential health benefits. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



HILDA L. SOLIS
Secretary of Labor