



**State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

State House, Room 224  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903  
401-222-2080

**Lincoln D. Chafee**  
Governor

July 5, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

It is with great enthusiasm that I write to declare the State of Rhode Island's intent to operate a state-based Exchange consistent with the Affordable Care Act. On September 19, 2011, I signed Executive Order 11-09, which established the Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange as a division within my office.

Rhode Island's Exchange will provide Rhode Island families and small businesses with access to more affordable, high quality health insurance coverage. Last week, I appointed Christine Ferguson, J.D., as the Director of Rhode Island's Exchange. Director Ferguson has substantial expertise in both commercial coverage and Medicaid and will lead our State's effort to integrate the establishment of our state-based Exchange and our Medicaid expansion. Our Exchange Advisory Board, chaired by former U.S. Attorney Meg Curran, has been meeting regularly to advise the Director on the critical policy decisions that will guide the design and implementation of our Exchange.

Rhode Island has worked closely with our federal partners in planning our Exchange, and I look forward to ongoing consultation as we prepare to operate our Exchange. Through the Exchange Advisory Board and our State's Healthcare Reform Commission, Rhode Island has enjoyed both extraordinary cross-agency cooperation and extensive interested parties input. This will continue as we move forward to implement our state-based Exchange. We look forward to gaining

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
July 5, 2012  
Page 2

approval for the Rhode Island Health Benefits Exchange in a timely fashion to operate the Exchange on behalf of Rhode Island families and businesses in 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Chafee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and a distinct "Chafee" ending.

Lincoln D. Chafee  
Governor