



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

April 12, 2013

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

In my March 22, 2013, letter to you I committed to issuing a timeline detailing when the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) would provide guidance to states interested in implementing the federal Basic Health Program option (BHP). I have attached that timeline here, and as promised, it includes issuance of proposed rules in the fall of 2013 and final regulations in the early part of 2014. States will be able to submit their BHP plans to CMS as soon as the final rule is issued, and CMS would seek to complete its review by August 15, 2014, of plans submitted promptly after that issuance.

Throughout this period, we will work closely with interested states in the development of this guidance and will provide technical assistance as they develop their plans. We are confident that states will have the information and tools they need to implement their BHP programs by the start of 2015.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kathleen Sebelius

Attachment