

To: Joint Legislative Health Reform Oversight Committee
Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee
Senate Finance Committee

May 13, 2013

As co-chairs of the New Hampshire Health Exchange Advisory Board ("Board"), we write to express the broad consensus of the Board that New Hampshire should accept the federal grant funds awarded to the state on April 8, 2013 for the purpose of providing consumer assistance with respect to the federal Health Insurance Exchange, or Marketplace, that is being established for New Hampshire.

The Board was established in 2012 under RSA 420-N:10 to advise New Hampshire's Insurance Commissioner and Commissioner of Health and Human Services "regarding the interests of New Hampshire businesses and consumers with respect to any federally-facilitated exchange that may be created for New Hampshire."

The Board has 12 members, each appointed to represent a different interest. The Board's members include health insurance carriers, dental carriers, licensed insurance producers, Medicaid recipients, health care providers, advocates for enrolling hard to reach populations, and public health experts, as well as four public members representing the interests of individuals, employees and employers who are likely to obtain coverage through the Marketplace, which is scheduled to begin enrollment on October 1, 2013.

Given the timeframe for rollout of the Marketplace, the Board feels that, without accepting the federal Consumer Assistance grant funds, timely, effective education and outreach about the Marketplace to New Hampshire consumers and businesses will be impossible.

At its meeting on May 10, 2013, the Board authorized us as co-chairs to sign this letter. Thank you, and please do not hesitate to contact either of us with any questions.

Sincerely,



Lisa Guertin
Health Exchange Advisory Board
Co-Chair

Sincerely,



Scott Baetz
Health Exchange Advisory Board
Co-Chair