



State of New Hampshire

GENERAL COURT

CONCORD

Legislative Office Building, Room 302
33 No. State Street
Concord, NH 03301

September 25, 2012

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

As you know, Section 1302(b) of the Affordable Care Act directs you to define essential health benefits for purposes of insurance coverage sold in each state's health benefits exchange. As outlined in the Essential Health Benefits Bulletin issued December 16, 2011, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services ("HHS") contemplates an approach in which each state chooses from among ten potential benchmark plans available during the first quarter of 2012. I understand that the selected plan will serve as a "reference plan" in defining the scope of services that will be considered essential health benefits in New Hampshire for calendar years 2014 and 2015. As set forth in the Bulletin, HHS expects that states will make their EHB benchmark designation during the third quarter of 2012, which ends September 30, 2012.

I am writing to inform you that on September 19, 2012, the legislative Joint Health Care Reform Oversight Committee created under NH RSA chapter 420-N met and selected Matthew Thornton Blue (Anthem BCBS, 96751NH005) as the benchmark plan for New Hampshire.

If you have any questions about New Hampshire's benchmark designation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John B. Hunt".

Representative John B. Hunt
Chairman
Joint Health Care Reform Oversight Committee

cc: The Honorable John H. Lynch, Governor, State of New Hampshire
Roger A. Sevigny, Commissioner, New Hampshire Insurance Department
Nicholas A. Toumpas, Commissioner, New Hampshire Health and Human Services Department
Courtney J. Williams, New Hampshire Program Officer, CMS/USDHHS