

April 7, 2011

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

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

Kathleen,

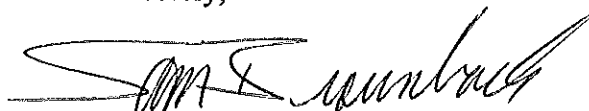
Thank you for your reply to my letter regarding the need for flexibility to remake Medicaid to better serve the needs of Kansans. I appreciate your understanding and willingness to work with us in good faith as Kansas considers innovative solutions to improve patient outcomes, strengthen the safety net, and manage costs.

As mentioned in my letter to you dated March 9, Kansas has a proud history of responsibly and creatively meeting the health needs of children, the elderly, the disabled and the poor. Kansas has used the flexibility available in Medicaid to rise into the top tier of programs on several key measures. We can do even better.

The challenges we face now demand a different level of flexibility to ensure Kansas does not end up in the position of other states that are being forced to drop beneficiaries. Unfortunately Medicaid's current structure and the long approval process does not allow states to innovate at the pace our rapidly changing economies and health care systems demand. We plan to bring new innovations that focus on patient outcomes and we remain committed to serving the neediest Kansans.

Over this spring and summer, we are embarking on a process to work with a broad range of stakeholders on fundamental reforms to make Medicaid work best for Kansans. In the meantime, we also are developing a waiver application that will allow us to implement and test innovations that emerge from that process and additional future improvements. Working together, we can remake Medicaid to ensure the highest quality of care for our most vulnerable Kansans.

Sincerely,



Sam Brownback
Governor of Kansas

Thanks for your consideration!