The California Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board
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June 26, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

I am writing to express my support California's application for its second Level I Establishment Grant (1.2) to support the development and implementation of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

The Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB) administers four health programs in California: the Healthy Families Program, California's Children's Health Insurance Program; the Access for Infants and Mothers Program for pregnant women; as well as both the state and federally funded programs for the medically uninsurable, Major Risk Medical Insurance Program and Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan respectively. MRMIB's programs provide coverage to individuals who may be eligible for coverage through the Exchange in 2014.

MRMIB is working closely in partnership with the Exchange in the development of the Internet portal and an integrated eligibility and enrollment platform, the California Healthcare Eligibility, Enrollment and Retention System (CalHEERS). CalHEERS will provide consolidated IT support for eligibility, enrollment and retention for Healthy Families, the Exchange, and Medi-Cal and thus requires close collaboration to ensure successful implementation for all three programs. MRMIB, along with the Exchange and the Department of Health Care Services, are jointly sponsoring the CalHEERS project as well as the development of an outreach, marketing and assistance program that will inform Californians of their coverage opportunities and provide assistance to enroll in coverage. Joint sponsorships of these efforts is critical for California to ensure that millions of eligible Californians understand their coverage options and find simple pathways to enrollment beginning in 2013.

MRMIB is committed to continued collaboration with the Exchange to ensure that both agencies are working effectively to develop shared functionalities that will meet our common goals of providing seamless coverage and a first class user experience. Our partnership will also prevent duplication of efforts between the Exchange and Healthy Families.

Thank you for your time and consideration of California's application.

Sincerely,

Janette Casillas

Janette Casillas
Executive Director