



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

June 27, 2011

Joel Ario, Director, Office of Health Insurance Exchanges
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 737F
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Mr. Ario:

I support the California application for a federal grant to support the establishment and initial development of the California Health Benefit Exchange.

The California Health Benefit Exchange provides a chance to offer affordable health insurance to uninsured Californians by allowing consumers to shop, compare, and purchase health insurance through a transparent market. The Exchange will also assist those eligible for public health programs such as Medi-Cal.

Success of the California Health Benefit Exchange is contingent upon federal support including federal cooperation with the state as we work to balance our budget. Federal funding is critical to making this Exchange operational and securing the promise of the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,


Edmund G. Brown Jr.