

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

July 6, 2012

Mr. Steve Larsen
Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave SW, Suite 739H
Washington, DC 20201

Re: Colorado's Intent with Respect to Implementing a State-Based Exchange

Dear Mr. Larsen:

Colorado is pleased to submit this Declaration Letter for implementation of a State-Based Exchange and express its intent to apply to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for its operation.

Last year, the Colorado legislature passed Senate Bill 11-200 with bi-partisan support, creating the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange. The objective was to create a Colorado exchange that would increase access, affordability, and choice for individuals and small employers purchasing health insurance in Colorado. The legislation reflects the unique needs of Colorado, seeks Colorado-specific solutions, and explores the options available to the state in meeting the goals of quality, access, and affordability.

We must remember that controlling costs across the entire health system is a critical component of expanding coverage. We remain committed to doing everything we can to improve the health and health care of all Coloradans, and are confident that creating a state-based exchange will lead us further down that path. We look forward to working collaboratively with CMS to obtain approval for a State-Based Exchange and to ensure the Colorado Health Benefit Exchange is operational and ready for business by 2014.

Sincerely,

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor