



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

March 9, 2010

Ms. Karen Ignagni
America's Health Insurance Plans
601 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
South Building
Suite Five Hundred
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Ms. Ignagni,

There is no question that our health care system is broken. Health care costs are crushing business and government budgets. In recent weeks, we have heard countless stories from across the country regarding double-digit health insurance premium increases. Just today, news reports indicated that premiums for some Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield customers in Virginia have increased by more than 20 percent and premiums for some plans will continue to rise even more on April 1. These increases make health insurance unaffordable for many Americans and highlight the urgent need for reform.

As you gather in Washington for your annual policy conference, I appreciated your opening statement, in which you expressed your eagerness to hear a diverse range of views and ideas about how to strengthen the health insurance system. I also appreciated the invitation you sent earlier this year for me to speak to you today. Unfortunately my schedule did not permit me to attend today, but I would welcome the opportunity to address your conference tomorrow at 10:30 AM.

We are closer than ever to passing comprehensive health insurance reform that will strengthen the health insurance system for everyone and I hope to have the chance to address your members and discuss these important efforts.

My office can be reached at 202-690-7000. I look forward to your prompt reply, and to seeing you at the conference.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathleen Sebelius