



April 23, 2010

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Madam Secretary:

The Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) recognizes that some dependent adult children may lose eligibility for health coverage on their family's policy – due to a change in student status, age, or other reasons – only to be reinstated after September 23 of this year under a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The new law requires that dependent adult children who do not have coverage from their own employer may stay on a family policy to their 26th birthday. In the spirit of facilitating implementation of coverage extensions under PPACA, ACHP member organizations listed below will take steps to avoid this interruption in coverage by allowing currently eligible dependents to remain on their parents' individual policies in the period before the law's effective date and will work with employer groups to determine how their employees can also benefit from the coverage extension.

ACHP members are non-profit, community-based and regional health plans or subsidiaries of non-profit health systems that provide coverage and care for approximately 18 million Americans and 15 percent of Medicare Advantage enrollees. These health plans focus on improving the health of the communities they serve and are on the leading edge of patient care coordination, primary care innovation, accountable health care delivery, use of information technology and other innovations leading to improvements in affordability and the quality of care.

Thank you for your leadership on health care reform and on the issue of coverage for dependent children. We look forward to working with you to implement health care reform in a way that will promote delivery system reforms.

Sincerely,

Patricia Smith
President and CEO

MAKING HEALTH CARE BETTER

CAPITAL DISTRICT PHYSICIANS' HEALTH PLAN (CDPHP)
Albany, New York

CAPITAL HEALTH PLAN
Tallahassee, Florida

CARE OREGON
Portland, Oregon

EMBLEM HEALTH
New York, New York

FALLON COMMUNITY HEALTH PLAN
Worcester, Massachusetts

GEISINGER HEALTH PLAN
Danville, Pennsylvania

GROUP HEALTH
Seattle, Washington

GROUP HEALTH COOPERATIVE OF SOUTH CENTRAL WISCONSIN
Madison, Wisconsin

HEALTH PARTNERS
Minneapolis, Minnesota

INDEPENDENT HEALTH
Buffalo, New York

KAISER FOUNDATION HEALTH PLAN
Oakland, California

MARTIN'S POINT HEALTH CARE
Portland, Maine

NEW WEST HEALTH SERVICES
Helena, MT

THE PERMANENTE FEDERATION
Oakland, California

PRESBYTERIAN HEALTH PLAN
Albuquerque, New Mexico

PRIORITY HEALTH
Grand Rapids, Michigan

SCOTT & WHITE HEALTH PLAN
Temple, Texas

SECURITY HEALTH PLAN
Marshfield, Wisconsin

TUFTS HEALTH PLAN
Waltham, Massachusetts

UCARE
Minneapolis, Minnesota

UPMC HEALTH PLAN
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania