

PETER SHUMLIN
Governor



State of Vermont
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

July 5, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

Thank you for your letter dated June 9, 2016 providing supplemental information that your Departments would like to see to complete Vermont's section 1332 State Innovation Waiver under the Affordable Care Act (ACA). This information was extremely helpful in identifying areas that needed further clarification in our application.

As you indicated, Vermont is seeking to waive the ACA requirement to establish an internet portal for the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) and to have enrollment continue to take place through insurers. Vermont Act 67 of 2016 directed the Commissioner of Vermont Health Access to seek a waiver for this purpose. After passage of this Act passed the General Assembly, CCHIO issued additional transitional guidance extending the ability of states to allow for direct enrollment for plan years beginning in 2017 and 2018. Vermont has applied to extend direct enrollment under this transitional guidance, which if approved, operationally meets the needs of the state for the next two years. Thank you very much for providing this opportunity for states.

We are currently reviewing the information requested to complete the waiver application and are considering whether and when to refile the section 1332 State Innovation Waiver.

Thank you again for allowing states additional flexibility for direct enrollment for the next two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Shumlin", written over a faint, illegible background.

Peter Shumlin
Governor