



Minnesota Health Insurance Exchange

85 -7th Place East, Suite 120
St. Paul, MN 55101-2198

mn.gov/HealthInsuranceExchange
Enrollment begins October 1, 2013

December 17, 2012

Ms. Ellen Montz, Health Policy Advisor
Office of the White House
Domestic Policy Council
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Montz:

We are writing to request that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issue guidance to help state exchanges create a uniform definition for American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) for all Insurance Affordability Programs including Medicaid and Premium Tax Credits. Specifically, we join the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board, the California Rural Indian Health Board, the states of Oregon and Washington, and others to ask that HHS adopt the Medicaid definition of AI/AN under 42 C.F.R. § 447.50 for all Insurance Affordability Programs.

Over the past year, we have worked closely with Indian Tribes and organizations in the state to design and develop a state health insurance exchange that will address the needs of American Indians in Minnesota. Through our work, we have become concerned that there are different definitions for AI/AN for Medicaid and Premium Tax Credits that will create significant challenges to implementing a single streamlined eligibility application and process for American Indians. The lack of a uniform definition will likely result in less accurate and timely eligibility determinations and create a burdensome process that could result in fewer American Indians receiving the benefits afforded them under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

Thank you for your consideration of this request to help us provide better access to health care coverage for American Indians in Minnesota.

Respectfully,

/James W. Schowalter/
James W. Schowalter
Commissioner
Minnesota Management & Budget

/Lucinda Jesson, JD/
Lucinda Jesson, JD
Commissioner
Department of Human Services

/April Todd-Malmlov/
April Todd-Malmlov
Exchange Director
Health Insurance Exchange