Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 23, 2013

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

With more than three years to prepare for the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, we are surprised to see the level of uncertainty, confusion and incompetence that has riddled the Health Insurance Marketplace since October 1. The Department of Health and Human Services, under the leadership of Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, was entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring an integrated debut of the federal government's website, HealthCare.gov. Unfortunately, as we have seen in numerous news reports, many Americans have found it impossible to sign up for the required health coverage or to simply learn about the new plans and associated costs. The scope of the problem is so great that, were this a private company or military command, the CEO or general would have been fired. We are, therefore, calling on you to hold Secretary Sebelius accountable for the fiasco that is HealthCare.gov and ask for her resignation.

Recent reports estimate that HHS has spent more than $400 million on the HealthCare.gov system. Analyses by IT system experts have indicated the problem is not due to high traffic, but to structural design problems and poor coding. Other reports have revealed that the site had not been adequately tested by independent third-parties, either for data security or for handling the necessary load of requests. It's been reported that a major part of the problem stems from an internal HHS decision to prevent people from simply browsing health policies and prices until they first created an account and entered crucial data that would determine their eligibility for subsidies.

The wise thing to do would have been to delay the rollout to allow time for adequate testing, much like your administration has delayed many other key pieces of the Obamacare legislation. Instead, by rushing to deploy an untested system, many Americans may be surprised to find that they are subject to Obamacare penalties when they have been unable to sign up due to confusion or technical "glitches." Others who believed they signed up may actually find themselves not in the system and without coverage.

It's not too late. By calling for the resignation of Secretary Sebelius, you can send a powerful signal that the American people will not be held responsible for her department's failures. By granting a delay in the rollout of Obamacare, you can ensure fairness for all Americans, not just the select few.

Sincerely,

John Fleming

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Roger Williams

Vicky Hartzler

Bill Shuster

Michele Bachmann

Stephen Fincher

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