



STATE OF GEORGIA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ATLANTA 30334-0090

Brian P. Kemp
GOVERNOR

February 13, 2023

Dr. Ellen Montz
Deputy Administrator and Director
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (“CMS”),
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (“CCIIO”)
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Suite 739H
Washington, DC 20201
SBMOversight@cms.hhs.gov

Dear Director Montz:

On behalf of the State of Georgia, I am submitting this Exchange Declaration of Intent letter. The Georgia General Assembly introduced Senate Bill 65 on February 1, 2023, that would grant the Office of Commissioner of Insurance and Safety Fire (“OCI”) authority to establish and operate a State-based Exchange (“SBE”). Upon enactment of the bill, Georgia intends to establish the Georgia Access SBE and transition off the Federally-facilitated Exchange (“FFE”) for plan year (“PY”) 2024 to best meet the needs of Georgians.

Georgia made substantial investments in the Georgia Access Model over the past three years and was fully prepared to transition off the FFE for PY 2023. Georgia Access aimed to ensure Georgians could receive an improved consumer experience and shop for an affordable plan while incentivizing the private market to target the uninsured who have been left behind by the current system. At this time, the best way for Georgia to achieve these goals is to operate the Georgia Access Model as an SBE, with a State consumer portal to complement its private-sector enrollment partners.

In preparation for Georgia Access’s implementation and the associated PY 2023 CMS Operational Readiness Reviews (“ORR”), the State developed the policies, operations, and technology necessary to transition off the FFE. The ORR requirements for Georgia Access are consistent with those for SBEs. The State collaborated closely with CCIIO to complete ORRs and was on track, along with its private-sector enrollment partners, to go live for PY 2023.

Georgia made extensive investments to implement Georgia Access, and the State and outside vendors remain committed. By moving quickly to establish an SBE for PY 2024, Georgia can

Dr. Ellen Montz
February 13, 2023
Page two

maximize its investments and provide an improved insurance shopping experience for its residents. Considering Georgia's demonstrated operational readiness, the significant investments already made, and the number of completed SBE requirements, the State is confident it can implement an SBE on an expedited timeline, with a go-live date of November 1, 2023.

I designate OCI Commissioner General John. F King, or his designee, as the State's point of contact for the transition. I authorize Commissioner King, or his designee, to bind the State and attest to complying with the requirements of an SBE and sign and submit the Exchange Blueprint Application. The State of Georgia acknowledges that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the State may agree to amend this Declaration of Intent Letter to include additional information as necessary to establish the intended SBE.

Georgia is committed to working collaboratively with CMS and other stakeholders to implement our SBE for PY 2024.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B:kw".

Brian P. Kemp
Governor

cc: Jeff Wu, CCIIO Deputy Director for Policy
Jeff Grant, CCIIO Deputy Director for Operations
General John F. King, Georgia OCI Commissioner
Gregg Conley, Georgia OCI Executive Counsel
Grant Thomas, Georgia Director of Health Strategy and Coordination