



JOHN A. KITZHABER, MD
Governor

June 3, 2013

Oregon Health Policy Board
Chair Eric Parsons
Vice-Chair Lillian Shirley

Dear Chair Parsons and Vice-Chair Shirley:

As you and the Board are well aware, beginning in 2014, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will significantly expand coverage to thousands of currently uninsured Oregonians and alter the regulations governing the individual and small group markets. While the ACA makes historic, nationwide changes in coverage expansion and the regulation of the individual and small group markets, I believe there is an immediate need to focus on how to better align ACA implementation activities with our current reform efforts. I want to ensure that our triple aim goals of lower costs, better care and better health across all markets are achieved. To that end, concurrent with the ACA, we have an opportunity to create an environment for the commercial marketplace in Oregon that moves toward one characterized by models of coordinated care and growth rates of total health care expenditures that are reasonable and predictable.

For this to occur, I am asking that by the end of this year, the Oregon Health Policy Board take on the task of recommending to me and the Legislature, possible statutory and regulatory changes necessary to ensure our triple aim goals are met. I would anticipate that such recommendations would include, but not be limited to:

- strategies to mitigate cost shifting, decrease health insurance premiums and increase overall transparency and accountability;
- opportunities to enhance the Oregon Insurance Division's rate review process;
- alignment of care model attributes within PEBB and OEBC contracts;
- alignment of care model attributes within Cover Oregon's qualified health plans.

Thanks to all of your hard work and leadership over the past several years, Oregon has made significant progress in reforming its health care delivery system. Across the state, communities have begun transforming to deliver more effective, efficient care. Critical partnerships are developing to reward quality care, promote prevention and wellness and manage chronic diseases and are building new networks, products and contracting models.

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We have an amazing opportunity to leverage all of your great work with the implementation of the ACA and I look forward to working with you to achieve further success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Kitzhaber". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "John" being the most prominent.

John A. Kitzhaber, M.D.
Governor

MJB/smg