

Congress of the United States

U.S. House of Representatives

Committee on Small Business

2361 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, DC 20515-0515

January 30, 2014

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
United States Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

Although the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) health insurance exchanges opened on October 1, 2013, as you know, many features of the SHOP exchanges have been delayed. Small businesses are currently not able to shop for, select and enroll in health insurance plans in the online SHOP exchanges. As Chairman of the Committee on Small Business, I continue to be concerned about the ongoing misinformation, problems and delays that are affecting small business owners as the health care law is implemented.

There have been reports that in some states, few small businesses have enrolled to date. I am writing to request enrollment data for the federal and state SHOP exchanges to date. Specifically, I am interested in the numbers of small businesses and the number of employees in each state who have enrolled and paid at least their first premium. If you do not have the numbers for those who have paid at least their first premium, please provide the numbers of small businesses and employees who have enrolled in the federal and in each state exchange. Please also provide the date by which you anticipate federal and state SHOP online enrollment to be fully operational.

The Administration touted the SHOPS as a competitive marketplace for small business owners to purchase insurance. However, since the law was implemented, some small business owners have been notified that their plans are being cancelled, and many now face sharply higher premiums for existing policies. Others, expecting more affordable coverage on the SHOPS, have instead found those plans have higher premiums, higher deductibles and less comprehensive coverage.

Please provide the SHOP enrollment numbers by February 7, 2014. I appreciate your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Chairman