

LEONARD LANCE
SEVENTH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

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December 4, 2013

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 445-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

I am writing to request that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) take immediate action to protect the current health care policies of more than 90,000 New Jerseyans.

As you know, President Obama recently requested that governors and state insurance commissioners allow insurers to renew plans in response to the tide of criticism that he had broken a promise to the American people that "if you like your health plan, you can keep it."

New Jersey regulators announced on November 27th that health insurance companies can decide for themselves whether to renew the policies of thousands of consumers who previously were told the policies did not meet federal standards under the health care law and would be cancelled. Following this announcement, Horizon Blue Cross Blue Shield of New Jersey (Horizon BCBSNJ) moved to renew its Basic and Essential and Basic and Essential Plus plans (B & E plans) currently held by more than 90,000 Garden State members.

The New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance, however, this week said, "*Further guidance provided as recently as this week by the federal government makes clear that even if an individual wants to keep their existing coverage in New Jersey, certain provisions will still be altered in order to make each plan consistent with federal mandates.*"

Your apparent decision not to allow the renewal of current B & E plans runs counter to President Obama's declaration that health insurers would be able to renew recently cancelled plans with state approval.

I respectfully request that CMS honor the President's commitment to the American people and allow Horizon BCBSNJ to renew current B & E plans for its more than 90,000 members. I look forward to your response to this request. Best personal wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leonard Lance". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line extending across the width of the text.

Leonard Lance
Member of Congress