

**DEPARTMENT OF  
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**



**Brian Schweitzer  
GOVERNOR**

**Anna Whiting Sorrell  
DIRECTOR**

**STATE OF MONTANA**

www.dphhs.mt.gov

PO BOX 4210  
HELENA, MT 59604-4210  
(406) 444-5622  
FAX (406) 444-1970

February 29, 2011

Senator Jon Sonju, Presiding Officer  
Select Committee on Efficiency in Government  
PO Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Senator Sonju:

Thank you for forwarding the issues that you identified on behalf of the Select Committee on Efficiency in Government regarding the implications of the federal health care law on the Montana Medicaid program. We agree that there will be many changes that will be needed in the next several years.

As you acknowledge in your letter, there are very few details that have been released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) about actual implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA). CMS will need to issue specific guidance before anything but rudimentary analysis of our existing systems can take place. For this reason, we feel that it would be premature to convene meetings with stakeholders at this time.

I have offered to meet with stakeholders on an individual basis in the past regarding ACA and remain committed to continuing these meetings.

Sincerely,

  
Anna Whiting Sorrell  
Director

cc: Sue O'Connell  
Mary Dalton