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October 14, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell,

Based on the Kaiser Family Foundation report that was released in August, and conversations with my constituents, it appears that only eleven counties in Missouri (including the City of St. Louis) will have more than one option of health insurers on the ObamaCare exchanges next year. This is in stark contrast to the options that Missourians had for this year, where every county had at least three insurers participating in the marketplace exchanges.

As you know, September 23, 2016, was the deadline for insurance companies to decide whether or not to participate in the marketplace exchanges. However, it is my understanding that this information will not be made public to Missourians until November 1, 2016, when the open enrollment period begins. If reporting is accurate, then many Missourians will lose their current health insurance coverage plan, face significantly fewer options on the exchanges, and have little time to secure a new plan. That is unacceptable.

News reports also indicate that health insurers have submitted requests for significant rate hikes next year. In Oklahoma, a neighboring state where rate increases are public, families are facing rate increases between 58 and 96 percent. However, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has also failed to make this information available to Missourians.

Families in my state, and across the country, are being hit hard by the consequences of the president's health care law. The least they deserve is the opportunity to be able to plan for the future as best they can. Therefore, I request that you immediately release information on which insurers will participate in the marketplace exchanges, as well as the rate increases that CMS recently approved. Missourians need to know if they will once again be unable to keep their current health insurance, as well as plan for significant rate increases next year.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator