James A. Walsh Co-Chair

Gregory P. Peterson Commissioner

Todd D. Valentine Co-Executive Director

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Douglas A. Kellner Co-Chair

Evelyn J. Aquila Commissioner

Robert A. Brehm Co-Executive Director the Exchange with the State's administration of these programs; (http://www.governor.ny.gov/press/04122012-EO-42)

It does so in recognition of the requirements of The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that there be a single application for health insurance benefits and that it is appropriate that a state agency perform the task of running the Exchange rather than having a third party operate the Exchange.

The Governor's Executive Order is clear on this point:

The Exchange shall, among other things, facilitate enrollment in health coverage and the purchase and sale of qualified health plans in the individual market in this state, and enroll individuals in health coverage for which they are eligible in accordance with federal law.

Whatever the situation may be in other states, in New York the Exchange is a state agency whose interactions with those whom it serves fall within the ambit of 42 U.S.C. §1973gg- -5(a)(2) &(a)(6) and that the Exchange must help its clients for register to vote under the National Voter Registration Act 42 U.S.C. §1973gg et seq.

I appreciate your interest in the subject and look forward to any additional comments, recommendations or insights that you may have as we implement this new program.

Very truly yours,

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Douglas A. Kellner Co-Chair