



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

September 16, 2013

Kyle Janek, M.D.
Executive Commissioner
Texas Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC)
4900 North Lamar Boulevard, 4th Floor
Austin, Texas 78751-3247

Dear Commissioner Janek:

I am writing to direct HHSC to develop and implement a mechanism for collecting and analyzing income, asset and resource information for applicants during the Medicaid application process. This information will enable the state to document the full and true impact certain provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) will have on our state, assuming Obamacare's Medicaid provisions are fully implemented on January 1, 2014.

Among its egregious provisions, Obamacare, if implemented, precludes states from including personal accountability measures in the Medicaid eligibility determination process. Prohibiting tools such as asset and resource testing will further burden Texas taxpayers with additional spending in the state budget by allowing individuals who should not qualify based upon personal resources to receive Medicaid services.

The collection of data by HHSC will not affect the determination of an individual's eligibility for Medicaid, but will merely be used for state impact analysis. Furthermore, HHSC should analyze and compare the data to current Texas eligibility standards prior to the next legislative session and report the agency's findings to the Office of the Governor, Office of the Lieutenant Governor, Office of the Speaker and the Legislative Budget Board.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "RICK PERRY". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:kkp