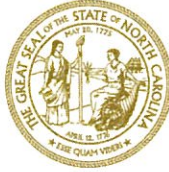


*Office of the Governor  
State of North Carolina*

*Roy Cooper  
Governor*



20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, N.C. 27699-0301

December 11, 2017

The Hon. Eric Hargan, Acting Secretary  
U. S. Dept. of Health & Human Services  
200 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Hargan:

I am writing to request an extension of the Open Enrollment period for [HealthCare.gov](http://HealthCare.gov) for an additional week, through December 22, 2017. North Carolina has a strong economy full of small business owners, farmers and entrepreneurs—people who buy health insurance on their own. As a result, North Carolina has the third-highest enrollment on the federal marketplace. The 6-week cut to the Open Enrollment period heavily impacts our state, so I request an additional week of Open Enrollment to give North Carolina families the time they need to choose the plan that's right for them.

Nationally, extensions have been important in helping people enroll in coverage. In fact, during both extensions in prior years, we saw between 400,000-450,000 additional enrollments, or a 6-8% increase in total enrollment and 10-11% increase in new enrollments in just two business days.

As Governor, it is my responsibility and commitment to improve the health, safety and well-being of all North Carolinians. That's why it is critical that North Carolina families have enough time to decide on the best plan to meet their needs—especially as over 500,000 North Carolinians used the exchange to purchase their insurance coverage for 2017.

A one-week extension of the Open Enrollment deadline is a reasonable step that will have a positive impact on the health of North Carolina and the entire country. Please act and grant this one-week extension.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper

RAC/sm