



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

August 15, 2011

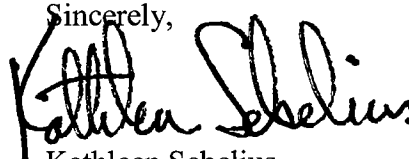
The Honorable Sander Levin
Ranking Member
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Levin:

I am pleased to provide you with the first annual Report to Congress on Breaches of Unsecured Protected Health Information. This report was prepared by the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health and Human Services. It is being submitted in accordance with section 13402(i) of the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The HITECH Act requires covered entities under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 to provide notification to the Department of breaches of unsecured protected health information. The Act also requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to prepare and submit to the Congress an annual report containing the number and nature of breaches reported to the Department, and the actions taken in response to those breaches. The enclosed report was prepared to fulfill this statutory requirement. The report summarizes the number and nature of breaches that occurred between September 23, 2009 (the date the breach notification requirements became effective), and December 31, 2010. It also describes corrective actions taken by covered entities to mitigate potential harm to affected individuals and prevent future incidents.

I hope you will find this report useful.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius

Enclosure



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August 15, 2011

The Honorable Fred Upton
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

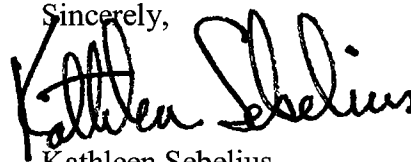
Dear Mr. Chairman:

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August 15, 2011

The Honorable Henry Waxman
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Waxman:

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Sincerely,

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Kathleen Sebelius

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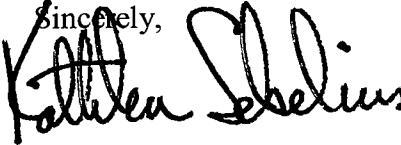
The Honorable Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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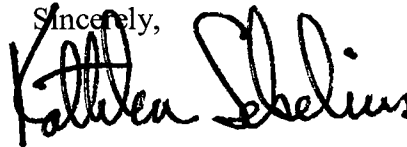
The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

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The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

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The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 205150

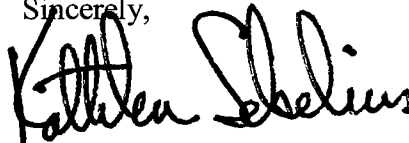
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The Honorable Dave Camp
Chairman
Committee on Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

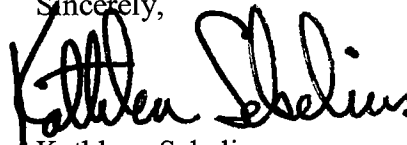
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