

T. M. Franklin Cownie Mayor

September 30, 2010

Kathleen Sebelius Secretary of United States Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Ms. Sebelius:

Sincerely,

Mayor

The City of Des Moines, Iowa would like to express its wholehearted support for the Affordable Care Act's Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. This grant program is a large help to employers, like the City of Des Moines, who continue to make health insurance coverage available to employees who retire before they are Medicare eligible. This retiree group typically has higher health care costs than younger plan participants and thus places an additional strain on maintaining this coverage option. These funds will aid the City in continuing to meet our obligations to offer this continued health coverage and will reduce the cost to our retirees.

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