



American Heart Association | American Stroke Association

Learn and Live.

Heart Disease and Stroke. You're the Cure.

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October 1, 2010

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

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

On behalf of the American Heart Association and our retirees, I applaud the Congress and the Administration for helping businesses and organizations across the country to continue to provide their retirees with health insurance coverage through the Affordable Care Act's Early Retiree Reinsurance Program. The AHA is pleased to have had our application to participate in this program approved.

As a non-profit organization that has as our mission helping all Americans live healthier lives free of cardiovascular disease and stroke, we know better than most employers just how important health insurance coverage is in improving health outcomes for those with or at risk for heart disease, stroke, and other chronic conditions. The uninsured with cardiovascular disease experience higher mortality rates than their insured counterparts and are less likely to have access to life-saving medications and other treatments. Middle-aged Americans with heart disease or stroke who lose their employer-sponsored health insurance and are not yet eligible for Medicare are especially vulnerable because they often have a difficult time accessing affordable coverage on their own.

By helping employers offset the costs of providing coverage to their retirees and their families, the Early Retiree Reinsurance Program will enable thousands of employers, including the American Heart Association, to continue to provide affordable, high quality insurance coverage. This will make a tremendous difference in their lives. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy A. Brown
Chief Executive Officer

*"Building healthier lives,
Free of cardiovascular
diseases and stroke."*