

ONE HUNDRED THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115  
Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

April 12, 2013

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

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is continuing to investigate the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA).

This week, news broke that the Administration would award \$54 million to community groups in 33 States to facilitate enrollment in the health insurance marketplaces that open for enrollment in October 2013.<sup>1</sup> These groups will serve as “Navigators” for the federally-facilitated or State partnership exchanges and assist consumers in understanding their health insurance options.

In order to assist the Committee in understanding the role Navigators will play when the PPACA is fully implemented, we ask that you provide written answers to the following requests and questions and the related documents no later than April 30, 2013:

1. Please describe all sources of funding available for Navigators, both currently and in the future, including funding from the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Does the \$54 million represent the total amount HHS or the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight (CCIIO) expects to invest in Navigators for these 33

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<sup>1</sup> Phil Galewitz and Jenny Gold, *Funding to Enroll Uninsured In New Markets Called ‘Drop In Bucket’*, KAISER HEALTH NEWS, Apr. 9, 2013 available at <http://www.kaiserhealthnews.org/Stories/2013/April/09/54-million-dollar-grants-for-exchange-enrollment-efforts.aspx>.

States?<sup>2</sup> For what purposes can award recipients use the \$54 million in funding for Navigators?

2. How many Navigators does HHS or CCIIO intend to fund? While some reports indicate that a State like California will need 21,000 “helpers”<sup>3</sup>, other reports note that “each state marketplace should have two navigators”, one of which must be a nonprofit.<sup>4</sup> If HHS or CCIIO intends to utilize larger organizations who will then delegate responsibilities to their designees, please describe how they will be supervised by either HHS or CCIIO. News reports also indicate that the number of uninsured in each State will determine the Navigator funding available; please describe the apportionment process among the States.
3. Describe the role of Navigators in States that are not utilizing federally-facilitated or State partnership exchanges. If they will have no role, describe what requirements exist (either in the PPACA or elsewhere) that require these other States to create or implement a Navigator style program.
4. Describe the process by which Navigators will be chosen. Please provide copies of any applications or forms individuals applying for Navigator positions must complete or submit. In addition, please provide any documents relating to the salary or pay scale for Navigators.
5. Describe the groups, individuals, or entities eligible to become Navigators, including those that are prohibited from doing so and why. For example, news reports indicate that individuals compensated by insurance companies are prohibited from becoming Navigators; please describe the reasons for this and whether underwriters, who have experience in this field, are permitted to become Navigators.
6. The CCIIO website explains that successful applicants will “maintain expertise in eligibility, enrollment, and program specifications.” Please describe how this will be determined and monitored, as well as any other ongoing efforts to monitor, review, or otherwise judge the performance of Navigators. Explain how this expertise will be determined considering that the exchanges have yet to be finalized and enrollment does not begin until October 1, 2013.
7. Describe the training, if any, that Navigators will participate in (and whether it will be voluntarily or a requirement). Please provide any documents related to the training of Navigators or guidance provided by HHS relating to the training of Navigators.

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<sup>2</sup> For example, a *Washington Post* article of February 04, 2013, reported that the funding would be drawn from “federal grants, state budgets, or private money” for now, and from the health insurance exchanges over the long term. See N.C. Aizenman, *For insurance exchanges, states need ‘navigators’—and hiring them is a huge task*, WAPO, Feb. 04, 2013 available at [http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-04/national/36743424\\_1\\_insurance-exchanges-navigators-health-insurance](http://articles.washingtonpost.com/2013-02-04/national/36743424_1_insurance-exchanges-navigators-health-insurance). Describe any federal, state, and private money used for this program in your response, along with a description of how the exchanges will fund this in the future.


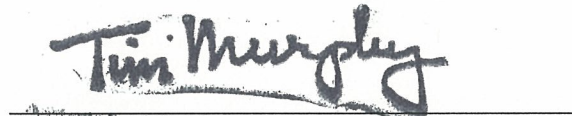

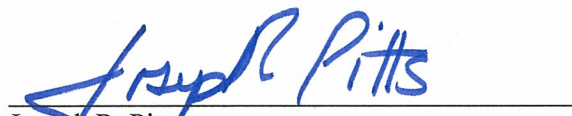

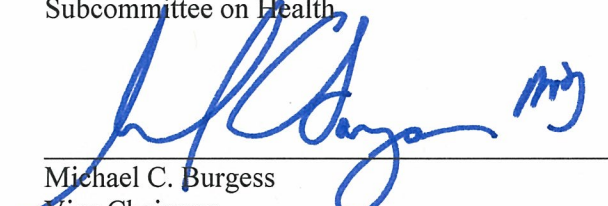
<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

<sup>4</sup> Sam Baker, *HHS opens applications for ObamaCare ‘navigators’*, THE HILL, Apr. 9, 2013 available at <http://thehill.com/blogs/healthwatch/health-reform-implementation/292731-hhs-opens-applications-for-obamacare-navigators>.



We appreciate that representatives from CCIIO have already made an effort to brief relevant Committee staff on the implementation of the Navigators program. Providing written answers to the above questions will further help our understanding of the program. If you have any questions about this request please contact Sean Hayes with Committee staff at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,

  
Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Tim Murphy  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations  
Joe Barton  
Chairman Emeritus  
Joseph R. Pitts  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Health  
Marsha Blackburn  
Vice Chairman  
Michael C. Burgess  
Vice Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Henry Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Health

The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations