DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

200 Independence Avenue SW, 733H-02
Washington, DC 20201

March 8, 2013

Bruce R. Ramge
Director
State of Nebraska Department of Insurance
941 O Street, Suite 400
Lincoln, NE 68501-2809

Dear Director Ramge:

Thank you for your letter sharing your intent to undertake activities relating to the certification of the Qualified Health Plans (QHPs) that will be available to consumers beginning on October 1, 2013.

Specifically, you have attested that Nebraska has the legal authority and operational capacity to conduct the plan management activities required to support certification of QHPs, as described in 45 CFR 155.1010(a). In addition, Nebraska will perform all plan management activities listed in Section 4.0 of the Blueprint in time for the 2013 QHP selection process.

Finally, thank you for participating in the review with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to determine Nebraska's operational plans and capacity to perform these functions. Following this one-day review, CMS will initiate a process under which it may rely on Nebraska's recommended determinations that health plans meet QHP certification requirements.

Please note that this process may require a written understanding between Nebraska and CMS in addition to any agreement under which section 1311(a) grant funds are provided. Assuming Nebraska continues to act in accordance with your attestations CMS will continue to rely on Nebraska's recommendations in certifying QHPs. CMS, however, will maintain its legal responsibility for ensuring that QHPs meet all QHP certification standards.

Sincerely,

Gary Cohen, Director
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight