



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Commissioner Donelon Announces Decision to Allow Health Insurance Policy Extensions

Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon announced today that he will allow health insurers to provide additional options for Louisiana residents impacted by health insurance policy discontinuations by offering transitional relief.

“Since we have been allowing early renewals of health insurance policies in Louisiana many health insurers in our state have already voluntarily extended coverage into 2014 for policyholders whose coverage does not comply with the Affordable Care Act,” said Commissioner Donelon. “But I still have concern about those consumers who are losing their coverage and remain unable to purchase coverage through the troubled online federal health exchange. We looked closely at the potential ramifications, including legal, health and solvency issues before arriving at this decision. It is my hope that this avenue will offer consumers greater options and more time to familiarize themselves with the complexities of the changes in the federal Affordable Care Act.”

Guidelines for insurers are provided in [Bulletin 2013-07: Transitional Relief for Non-Grandfathered Coverage under the Affordable Care Act](#). Insurers will not be required to offer policy extensions but the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI) will work with companies that opt to continue coverage beyond January 1, 2014. Commissioner Donelon also advises insurers who are offering extensions to policyholders to closely evaluate the solvency implications of transitional relief. Insurers who elect to offer such relief will be required to inform the Louisiana Department of Insurance of their decision by December 15, 2013.

Commissioner Donelon’s decision follows a November 14 announcement by President Obama giving state insurance commissioners the discretion to allow insurers to extend existing health insurance policies. The federal government will allow plans renewing between January 1 and October 1, 2014 to not include several of the market reforms that otherwise would have been required as of January 1, as long as the consumer was enrolled in that plan as of October 1, 2013.

Consumers who have questions about the status of their policies should contact their insurance provider. They can also contact the Office of Health at the Louisiana Department of Insurance by calling 1-800-259-5300.

About the Louisiana Department of Insurance: *The Louisiana Department of Insurance works to improve competition in the state's insurance market while assisting individuals and businesses with the information and resources they need to be informed consumers of insurance. As a regulator, the LDI enforces the laws that provide a fair and stable marketplace and makes certain that insurers comply with the laws in place to protect policyholders. You can contact the LDI by calling 1-800-259-5300 or visiting www.ldi.la.gov.*