RAUL RUIZ, MD 36th District, California

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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0536

October 31, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius Secretary Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201 The Honorable Edith Ramirez Chairwoman Federal Trade Commission 600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20580

The Honorable Eric Holder Attorney General United States Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Sebelius, Attorney General Holder and Chairwoman Ramirez:

Across the country, misinformation about the Affordable Care Act health insurance exchanges is creating opportunities for con artists to defraud families, seniors and small businesses. Criminals who defraud consumers for financial gain must be brought to justice. We urge you to devote more resources towards educating consumers, investigating complaints and taking swift legal action to crack down on fraud.

We appreciate the work by the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Justice, the Federal Trade Commission and agencies throughout the federal government to protect consumers from fraud, but more must be done. When families search "exchange" on the internet, websites falsely claiming to be health care health insurance exchanges appear in the search results. Seniors are particularly vulnerable to scams over the phone and through the mail. Fraud represents a critical threat to the success of the health insurance exchanges and may leave Americans with stolen identities, inadequate health care plans or no health care at all.

The Affordable Care Act health insurance exchanges are providing millions of Americans with quality health care options. However, the health insurance exchanges must not become what CNBC referred to as "a dream come true for rip-off artists." We must work to ensure that the Affordable Care Act creates opportunities for health care coverage rather than opportunities for fraud. Staying one step ahead of criminals requires coordination between law enforcement agencies, all levels of government, and local communities. We urge you to devote more resources towards combating fraud in the Affordable Care Act health insurance exchanges for the safety of families, seniors and small businesses across the country. We look forward to your thoughts and feedback, and welcome the opportunity to work together on this critical issue.

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Sincerely,

Raul Ruiz, M.I. Member of Congress

Filemon Vela Member of Congress

Elizabeth Esty

Member of Congress

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Ron Barber Member of Congress

Kyrsten Sinema

Member of Congress

Grace Meng

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