



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANICE K. BREWER  
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

August 15, 2012

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

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

My vision for Arizona is for every citizen to be afforded the opportunity to live a life free of public dependence so that they may pursue their unique vision of the American dream. My Director of Economic Security, Clarence Carter, shares this goal.

Passage of the landmark Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Act of 1996 resulted from extensive bipartisan consultation, discussion and compromise between the President, members of Congress and Governors. This welfare reform was only possible as a result of comprehensive stakeholder consultation and involvement. The resulting law has been the cornerstone of welfare-to-work programs.

Unfortunately, the Information Memorandum released July 12, 2012, by the Department of Health and Human Services appears to be a departure from the foundation effectively laid with the 1996 welfare reform, and appears to put much of its progress at risk.

Director Carter and I remain committed to innovative thinking that moves Arizona away from the administration of single-purpose programs and toward an integrated system. Our goal: to provide an effective safety net for Arizonans in their time of need, with programs that foster self-sufficiency rather than government dependency.

Secretary Sebelius, I ask that you reconsider the TANF waivers and further engage stakeholders, Congress and Governors across the country in making similar decisions moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janice K. Brewer".

Janice K. Brewer  
Governor