

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

SENT VIA ELECTRONIC COPY TO: Jim.Esqueca@hhs.gov

November 19, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell
Secretary of Health and Human Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

Last night, I received your response to my letters regarding the Affordable Care Act's Consumer Operated and Oriented Plan (CO-OP) program. Unfortunately, the letter and document production were non-responsive to the core of my request. HHS still has not answered the most important questions, which my prior letters outline in detail. Namely, why did HHS give \$1.2 billion in taxpayer-funded loans to 12 failed CO-OPs? To answer this important question, it is essential that HHS provide a full accounting of what happened within the CO-OP program. This must include, but is not limited to, milestone reviews and performance certifications, which I have consistently requested since May.¹

I continue to believe strongly that the people who have had their coverage disrupted and the taxpayers deserve answers.

Sincerely,



Ben Sasse
U.S. Senator

¹ Letter from U.S. Senator Ben Sasse to Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell on May 6, 2015, question 2c, "Please provide all applications for financing, monitoring reports, audits, semi-annual program reports and quarterly financial statements provided by CoOpportunity to CMS," and Letter from U.S. Senator Ben Sasse to Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell on August 6, 2015, question 5c, "Please provide any plan or analysis related to whether or not the CO-OPs met CMS's requirements," and Letter from U.S. Senator Ben Sasse to Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell on October 22, 2015, question 1, b and c "Any semi-annual report, quarterly financial report, and milestone review...[and] performance certifications."