



January 23, 2014

Gary Cohen  
Deputy Administrator and Director  
Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington DC 20201

Dear Mr. Cohen:

I am writing in follow up to a request Covered California made to your office on January 6, 2014, for guidance on whether Exchange establishment funding awarded under Section 1311 of the Affordable Care Act can be used for voter registration activities. As you may know, Covered California was designated a voter registration agency by the California Secretary of State in May 2013. Covered California is currently working with the Secretary of State's office and stakeholders to develop an implementation plan to meet our state and federal requirements as a voter registration agency.

To develop our voter registration implementation plan, it is critical that we understand both whether voter registration activities are a permissible use of Section 1311 funding and, if so, whether there are any limitations on the scope of voter registration activities that can be undertaken using Section 1311 funding. To the extent Section 1311 funding is cannot be used to support voter registration activities, Covered California will need to use revenues generated by assessments on our qualified health plans to support these activities.

I want to thank you and your team for working closely with us over the last several weeks and months to provide guidance on this issue. We understand that the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight is consulting with the United States Department of Justice as it relates to voter registration activities, we eagerly await your guidance on this matter. Please contact Diane Stanton at [diane.stanton@covered.ca.gov](mailto:diane.stanton@covered.ca.gov) if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Peter V. Lee  
Executive Director, Covered California

CC: Nicole Comeaux, Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight  
Diane Stanton, Deputy Director External Affairs, Covered California  
Jennie Bretschneider, Assistant Chief Deputy and Counsel, Secretary of State  
Lori Shellenberger, Voting Rights Director, ACLU San Diego & Imperial Counties