



DEC 14 2017

Administrator
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) extend the 2018 Open Enrollment Period for Maine residents served by a Federally-facilitated Exchange (FFE) so those recovering from the recent wind-storms have additional time to shop for health insurance coverage. We share your concerns related to the ability of affected individuals to review their healthcare coverage options and make decisions within the current open enrollment period.

CMS recognizes that certain exceptional circumstances, including a natural disaster such as a severe wind-storm, can prevent an individual from enrolling in coverage before an open enrollment period expires. In these cases, the FFE has the authority to provide a special enrollment period (SEP) to give these consumers more time to enroll in a health plan. CMS agrees that individuals who were unable to timely enroll in coverage during Open Enrollment due to the impacts of the severe wind-storms and resulting power outages across Maine should qualify for an exceptional circumstances SEP that will provide them more time to enroll in coverage.

Therefore, Maine residents who were unable to complete enrollment during Open Enrollment due to the wind-storms should contact the Marketplace Call Center at 1-800-318-2596 (TTY: 1-855-889-4325) to speak with a Marketplace representative. Maine residents who are affected by the wind-storm should provide detailed information about their situation so the Marketplace representative can appropriately assist them. Additional SEP information related to natural disasters is available on HealthCare.gov at <https://www.healthcare.gov/sep-list>. We intend to publicize the availability of this special enrollment period through assisters and agents in Maine.

CMS is committed to providing help and support to the areas and individuals impacted by this storm. We appreciate your support in assisting individuals in accessing health coverage and recovering from this event. Thank you again for your letter and for sharing your concerns.

Sincerely,

Seema Verma

Great seeing
you in Atlanta.
Glad we could
help - SV