



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

October 28, 2013

Michael A. Carome, M.D.
Director
Health Research Group
Public Citizen
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dr. Carome:

Thank you for your letter regarding Oregon's Senate Bill 483. I appreciate your sharing your concern that the new state law may create a loophole to avoid reporting any medical malpractice payments that are made through the new process to the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB).

The Department of Health and Human Services will examine the Oregon law to make a determination on whether medical malpractice payments made under Oregon's mediation process are deemed reportable under the Health Care Quality and Improvement Act of 1986 and NPDB regulations. I appreciate the recommendations put forth in your letter, and we will provide a response to you when our examination is complete.

Thank you for your commitment to patient safety. I will also provide this response to Dr. Wolfe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Sebelius". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "K".

Kathleen Sebelius