



House of Representatives

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August 17, 2013

Governor Nathan Deal
206 Washington Street
Suite 203, State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Governor Deal,

I would like to make you aware that the Obama Administration is funneling money in the form of grants into the University of Georgia's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences to assist U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, in implementing a network of 'navigators' to carry out the federal healthcare exchange as established by the Affordable Care Act.¹ Furthermore, these same grants are being funneled to organizations like Planned Parenthood in order to build the 'navigator' network in states who have resisted state-based exchanges.² To be associated with Planned Parenthood in this manner is certainly not a public relations achievement for the University of Georgia.

As you are aware, the legislature has resisted efforts to accommodate the Obama Administration's takeover of Georgia's healthcare delivery system. In 2011, the Healthcare Exchange Bill (HB 476) was vehemently opposed by grass roots activist and conservative members of our caucus, which caused the bill to be withheld.³ Your office was instrumental in keeping the state of Georgia from implementing a state-based exchange, and I applaud you for that decision.

Then, by executive order, a committee was subsequently created to study the implementation of a state-based health insurance exchange. Through careful study and financial analysis, you decided not to pursue setting up the state-based exchange. In a letter dated November 16, 2012 to HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, you specifically stated you were concerned about "the one-size-fits-all approach and high financial burden" that such an exchange would impose on the state of Georgia.⁴ In the same letter, you made it clear that the state of Georgia would not pursue this disastrous policy that is the Affordable Care Act.

Governor Deal, I am asking you once again to intercede on behalf of the citizens of Georgia who overwhelmingly opposes this unpopular and egregious abuse of federal power that is known as "Obamacare". Now, the federal government is distributing grant money to the University of Georgia to breathe life into the 'navigator' network. The University of

¹ <http://www.georgiahealthnews.com/2013/08/2-groups-grants-ga-exchange-navigators/#more-28955>

² <http://www.politico.com/story/2013/08/hhs-obamacare-navigators-95575.html>

³ <http://news.heartland.org/newspaper-article/georgia-health-exchange-bill-withdrawn-after-tea-party-pushback>

⁴ <http://gov.georgia.gov/press-releases/2012-11-16/deal-georgia-will-not-set-state-exchange>

Governor Deal
August 17, 2013
Page 2

Georgia seems all too eager to assist Secretary Sebelius' efforts to set up the federal-based health insurance exchange. As a Georgian and an elected member of the General Assembly, I am appalled that our state's institutions, which are supported largely by Georgia's citizens and its tax payers, are being hijacked to carry out this unpopular policy. The state of Georgia should not lift one finger to assist the federal government in implementing the Affordable Care Act; therefore, our tax payer supported institutions should not be accomplices in carrying out this monstrosity of a policy.

Governor Deal, you took a stand before and told Washington "no" on this issue. I am asking you to stand firm once again, and issue an executive order to demand that the University of Georgia return the \$1.7 million grant to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Furthermore, I would ask you to instruct the Board of Regents and Chancellor Huckaby to implement policies that will prevent any public university or college from being enlisted pawns to carry out any and all portions of the federal health insurance exchange. The federal government wanted this policy; therefore, let them fund it and implement it on their own. The Affordable Care Act will collapse under its own bureaucratic weight and the state of Georgia must not get sucked in to this policy vortex. I am hopeful an executive order will direct those funds back to Washington. The state is already addicted to too much federal money. If the grant money is not returned, then I may pursue legislative action that would prevent acceptance of grant money to our state institutions for the purposes of implementing any portion of the Affordable Care Act for which I hope to receive your support.

Please, say "no" to Washington again. The people of Georgia are counting on you.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Spencer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rep. Jason Spencer
(UGA, Class of 1997)
Georgia House District 180
Camden, Charlton, & Ware Counties

cc: Chancellor Hank Huckaby
Jere W. Morehead, President, University of Georgia
Board of Regents, University System of Georgia