

**Congress of the United States**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Small Business**  
2561 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515-6515  
February 25, 2015

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
Secretary  
United States Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

As you are aware, the launch and continuing administration of the President's health care law has been wrought with mistakes, causing anxiety and confusion for many Americans from the onset. Recently, it has been reported that your agency has sent incorrect tax information to 800,000 Americans, causing 50,000 individuals who have already completed their tax returns to potentially re-file, and making 750,000 Americans wait for their correct information before they can file. This misinformation has created yet more uncertainty in an already difficult tax season for many Americans.

Of particular concern to me as Chairman of the House Small Business Committee is how this most recent snafu impacts America's small businesses owners. I am writing to request how many, if any, of the incorrect forms have gone to small business owners who utilized the Small Business Health Options Program (SHOP) health insurance exchanges. I request your answers to the following questions:

1. What is the number of small business owners who purchased insurance on the SHOP exchange and were affected?
2. When did you learn of any errors in SHOP forms?
3. What recourse will be available to individuals who have already filed their taxes with the incorrect information provided by your agency? Will they be forced to refile or offered some other less burdensome option?
4. How long will it take to get the correct information out to affected individuals?
5. What are your immediate plans to ensure something of this magnitude does not happen again?

The Administration touted the SHOPs as a competitive and convenient location for small businesses to compare prices and purchase affordable and effective health insurance coverage for their employees and families. However, I am concerned that this most recent error may have compounded the problems small business owners have faced when utilizing the SHOPs, such as cancelled plans, higher premiums, and less comprehensive coverage options.

Please provide the answers to these questions by close of business on March 6, 2015. If you or your staff has any questions, they may contact Joe Hartz on the committee staff at [joe.hartz@mail.house.gov](mailto:joe.hartz@mail.house.gov) or at (202) 225-5821. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Steve Chabot  
Chairman