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Louisiana Becomes the Second State to Announce Opt Out of Creating State-Run Insurance Exchanges

According to Louisiana-based *Times-Picayune*, Louisiana State Health and Hospitals Secretary Bruce Greenstein announced that Louisiana will return the \$1 million grant it received from the federal government to set up its exchange required under federal health care reform. According to the newspaper, Greenstein said the federal government has been slow in providing guidance on the features and coverage in the exchanges. He also said insurance premiums will rise because of the reform law. The decision, similar to Florida's earlier one, means the federal government will run the state's exchange when it begins in 2014 unless other changes are made at the federal level.

It is expected other states may follow the lead of Florida and Louisiana in rebuffing setting up state exchanges. Only California has made measurable progress with state-run exchanges. Many states are taking a wait-and-see approach in light of the many court challenges facing federal health care reform.

Should you have any questions about this topic, please contact your Conner Strong account representative toll-free at 1-877-861-3220.



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