



Kathleen “Unaccountable” Sebelius

For Health And Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, The Buck Stops At Anywhere But Her

HHS SECRETARY SEBELIUS WILL DENY ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OBAMACARE’S ROCKY LAUNCH

Before Congress Today, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Will Try To Deflect Blame Onto Contractors For ObamaCare’s Disastrous Rollout. “Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius will tell a House committee tomorrow the site’s botched rollout was the result of contractors failing to live up to expectations – not bad management at HHS, as the contractors suggested. Sebelius blames a ‘subset’ of contractors who ‘have not met expectations’ for the website’s problems in an opening statement she’ll deliver Wednesday to the House Energy and Commerce Committee.” (Jonathan Easley, “Sebelius Blames Contractors For ObamaCare Problems,” [The Hill’s Health Watch](#), 10/29/13)

- **Sebelius’s Testimony Comes Just Days After She Said The “Majority Of People Calling For [Her] To Resign” Are People She Doesn’t “Work For.”** “Sebelius, the Obama administration’s public point person on implementation of the new health care law, was in Phoenix amid calls for her resignation over the technical issues that have prevented people from signing up for coverage online. ‘The majority of people calling for me to resign I would say are people who I don’t work for and do not want this program to work in the first place,’ Sebelius said during a visit to the Wesley Health Center.” (Terry Tang, “Sebelius In Phoenix Amid Calls For Her Resignation,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/25/13)

As Sebelius Shifts Blame Onto Contractors, She Won’t Offer Anything New Regarding The Problems That Have Afflicted ObamaCare

Secretary Sebelius “Will Read Almost Exactly The Same Testimony To Congress ... As Another Top Obama Administration Official Offered Tuesday.” “HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius will read almost exactly the same testimony to Congress Wednesday about the fumbled HealthCare.gov launch as another top Obama administration official offered Tuesday.” (Paige Winfield Cunningham, “Kathleen Sebelius Testimony More Of The Same,” [Politico](#), 10/29/13)

- **Sebelius’s Prepared Testimony “Matches Nearly Word-For-Word Testimony Delivered By CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner.”** “Sebelius’s eight pages of prepared testimony for the House Energy and Commerce Committee matches nearly word-for-word testimony delivered by

CMS Administrator Marilyn Tavenner to Ways and Means on Tuesday.” (Paige Winfield Cunningham, “Kathleen Sebelius Testimony More Of The Same,” [Politico](#), 10/29/13)

Sebelius’s Prepared Remarks Do Not Offer “An Apology For The Bungled Launch.” “Neither testimony includes an apology for the bungled launch—but Tavenner verbally apologized at the hearing Tuesday morning.” (Paige Winfield Cunningham, “Kathleen Sebelius Testimony More Of The Same,” [Politico](#), 10/29/13)

- **Sebelius Won’t Provide Any New Insight Into The Website’s Glitches.** “Neither offers new insight into way the website’s glitches have blocked millions of Americans from being able to enroll in insurance plans on the new exchanges.” (Paige Winfield Cunningham, “Kathleen Sebelius Testimony More Of The Same,” [Politico](#), 10/29/13)

AS OBAMACARE’S HEAD ADMINISTRATOR, SEBELIUS SHOULD BE FIRED FOR IGNORING THE WARNING SIGNS

Health And Human Services Secretary Kathleen Bears Sole Responsibility For ObamaCare’s Disastrous Launch On October 1. “Misstating the health care law she is responsible for administering, Kathleen Sebelius has asserted that the law required health insurance sign-ups to start Oct. 1, whether the system was ready or not. In fact, the decision when to launch the sign-up website was hers.” (Calvin Woodward, “FACT CHECK: Sebelius Misstates Law On Signup Start,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/28/13)

- **ObamaCare Has Turned Into A “Disaster” With Sebelius’s “Name On it.”** “Her many friends note that it isn’t as though Sebelius herself wrote the code for HealthCare.gov or even ran the tests. But given the stakes, the unhappy history of previous government tech launches and the disconnect between her promises that everything was on track and the reality that it wasn’t? Those do add up to a communications disaster with her name on it.” (Melinda Henneberger, “Sebelius On National Damage-Control Tour Over ObamaCare Website,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/25/13)

Sebelius Received Numerous Warnings That The Exchange Wouldn’t Be Ready, But Used Her Power As Secretary To Launch The Exchanges On October 1

As Secretary Of Health And Human Services, The Launch Date Of The ObamaCare Exchange Was At The Discretion Of Kathleen Sebelius. “The troubled debut of the government’s health insurance enrollment website has raised questions about whether its start date should have been delayed to allow testing and repairs before it went live. Asked last week whether that might have been the wiser course, Sebelius, the health and human services secretary, said that wasn’t possible because the law required an Oct. 1 launch. ... But the law imposed no legal requirement to open the website Oct 1. The law says only that the enrollment period shall be ‘as determined by the secretary.’ The launch date was set not in the law, but in regulations her department had issued. Agencies routinely allow themselves flexibility on self-imposed deadlines.” (Calvin Woodward, “FACT CHECK: Sebelius Misstates Law On Signup Start,” [The Associated Press](#), 10/28/13)

“There Were Ample Warning Signs That The System Was Not Working Properly, According To People Familiar With The Project.” (Lena H. Sun and Scott Wilson, “Health Insurance Exchange Launched Despite Signs Of Serious Problems,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/22/13)

A Month Before ObamaCare Launched, The Obama Administration Received A Multitude Of Warnings That It Wouldn’t Be Ready On October 1. “The Obama administration was given stark warnings just one month before that the federal health care site was not ready to go live, according to a confidential report obtained by CNN. The caution, from the main contractor CGI, warned of a number of open risks and issues for the HealthCare.gov web site even as company executives were testifying publicly that the project had achieved key milestones.” (Joe Johns and Z. Byron Wolf, “Obama Administration Warned About Health

Care Website," [CNN](#), 10/29/13)

- **According To The Report, There Were “Significant” Problems With The Exchange.** “But the CGI document, which describes ‘outstanding issues currently being mitigated’ says the testing timeframes are ‘not adequate to complete full functional, system, and integration testing activities’ and lists the impact of the problems as ‘significant.’” (Joe Johns and Z. Byron Wolf, “Obama Administration Warned About Health Care Website,” [CNN](#), 10/29/13)
- **The Contractor In Charge Of Creating The Exchange Reported That It Didn’t Have Access To Monitoring Tools, Which They Listed As “Severe” Issue.** “One concern, listed as ‘severe,’ warned, ‘CGI does not have access to necessary tools to manage envs in test, imp, and prod. Specifically (1) we don't have access to central log collection / view (2) we don't have access to monitoring tools. We have repeatedly asked CMS and URS but haven’t been granted this access.’” (Joe Johns and Z. Byron Wolf, “Obama Administration Warned About Health Care Website,” [CNN](#), 10/29/13)

In June, The Government Accountability Office (GAO) Noted “Major Work To Complete” If The ObamaCare Exchanges Are To Go Live In October. “The Government Accountability Office said federal and state health officials still have major work to complete, offering its most cautious comments to date about the Obama administration's ability to bring the centerpiece of its signature law to fruition.” (Louise Radnofsky and Sarah E. Needleman, “Health-Insurance Exchanges Are Falling Behind Schedule,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 6/19/13)

- **The Fundamental Parts Of The ObamaCare Exchanges “Had Not Been Completed.”** “The report by the nonpartisan Government Accountability Office (GAO) said key parts of the framework of the exchanges, including those that addressed consumers' eligibility for federal subsidies, management and monitoring of insurance plans and consumer assistance, had not been completed.” (David Morgan, “New ‘ObamaCare’ Exchanges Could Miss Enrollment Deadline: GAO,” [Reuters](#), 6/19/13)

Due To Sebelius’s Poor Management, Contractors Were Unable To Test The Site Until Two Weeks Before Launch

“HHS Was Making Changes To Exchanges Hours Before They Were Scheduled To Go Live,” Resulting In No Time To Test The Site. “HHS was making changes to the exchanges hours before they were scheduled to go live, Sanjay Singh, chief executive officer at software contractor hCentive Inc., said in a Sept. 30 phone interview. Singh, whose company did exchange work for an insurer working with the federal site, said at the time that his employees were rushing to accommodate ‘a late-night patch’ that the department had just added. ‘There was not enough time to do end-to-end testing,’ he said. ‘The system keeps changing, so how do you run the tests?’” (Mike Dorning, Alex Wayne, And Kathleen Miller, “ObamaCare Crashes Months In Coming Not Easily Repaired,” [Bloomberg](#), 10/22/13)

- **The Launch “Was So Rushed ... The Exchange’s Computer Code Contained Placeholder Language That Programmers Typically Used In Preliminary Drafts.”** “The introduction was so rushed that, as recently as last week, the exchange’s computer code contained placeholder language that programmers typically use in preliminary drafts, said Clay Johnson, a former White House presidential innovation fellow during 2012-2013.” (Mike Dorning, Alex Wayne, And Kathleen Miller, “ObamaCare Crashes Months In Coming Not Easily Repaired,” [Bloomberg](#), 10/22/13)

Testing Of The ObamaCare Exchange Website Wasn’t Conducted Until Two Weeks Before Its Launch. “Federal officials did not fully test the online health insurance marketplace until two weeks before it opened to the public on Oct. 1, contractors told Congress on Thursday. While individual components of the system were tested earlier, they said, the government did not conduct ‘end-to-end-testing’ of the system until late September.” (Robert Pear, “Contractors Describe Limited Testing Of Insurance Web Site,” [The New York](#)

[Times](#), 10/24/13)

- **Account Creation, Subsidy Eligibility, And Health Plan Signups Were Not Tested Until Less Than A Week Before Launch.** “Some key testing of the system did not take place until the week before launch, according to this person. As late as Sept. 26, there had been no tests to determine whether a consumer could complete the process from beginning to end: create an account, determine eligibility for federal subsidies and sign up for a health insurance plan, according to two sources familiar with the project.” (Lena H. Sun and Scott Wilson, “Health Insurance Exchange Launched Despite Signs Of Serious Problems,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/22/13)

Days Before The Launch, An Internal Test Of The ObamaCare Website “Crashed After A Simulation In Which Just A Few Hundred People Tried To Log On Simultaneously.” “Days before the launch of President Obama’s online health insurance marketplace, government officials and contractors tested a key part of the Web site to see whether it could handle tens of thousands of consumers at the same time. It crashed after a simulation in which just a few hundred people tried to log on simultaneously.” (Lena H. Sun and Scott Wilson, “Health Insurance Exchange Launched Despite Signs Of Serious Problems,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/22/13)

- **“Despite The Failed Test, Federal Health Officials Plowed Ahead.”** (Lena H. Sun and Scott Wilson, “Health Insurance Exchange Launched Despite Signs Of Serious Problems,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/22/13)

SEBELIUS WILL STONEWALL CONGRESS AMIDST THE CRIES FOR ACCOUNTABILITY FROM HER OWN PARTY

Democrat Leaders Are Suggesting “That Heads Should Roll.” “Democratic Party leaders also suggested that heads should roll, even while maintaining strong support for ObamaCare.” (Lisa Mascaro and Christi Parsons, “Obama Allies Join In Criticism Of Health Care Website,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/23/13)

No. 4 House Democrat Xavier Becerra (D-CA): “I Absolutely Believe That Somebody Should Be Held Accountable.” “‘I absolutely believe that somebody should be held accountable,’ said Rep. Xavier Becerra (D-Los Angeles), the No. 4 Democrat in the House.” (Lisa Mascaro and Christi Parsons, “Obama Allies Join In Criticism Of Health Care Website,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/23/13)

Representative Rick Nolan (D-MN): “Somebody’s Got To Man Up Here — Get Rid Of These People.” “‘Somebody’s got to man up here — get rid of these people,’ said Rep. Rick Nolan (D-Minn.), who stopped short of calling for the ouster of any specific administration official or contractor but characterized the president’s response to the rollout as ‘weak.’” (Lisa Mascaro and Christi Parsons, “Obama Allies Join In Criticism Of Health Care Website,” [Los Angeles Times](#), 10/23/13)

- **Representative Rick Nolan (D-MN): “I Would Fire That Person.”** “‘I would fire that person,’ Nolan added.” (Alex Rogers, “House Democrats Angry At Botched ObamaCare Website Rollout,” [Time](#), 10/23/13)

Representative Sean Maloney (D-NY): “I Think They [Obama Administration] Were Slow Off The Dime. I’d Like To See Somebody Lose Their Job Over This. I Think It’s Outrageous.” “He continued: ‘I can assure you that I won’t be sugarcoating it. We need to be very honest with people about the fact that there have been real problems with helping people sign up particularly on the website. And that can’t happen – that just can’t happen. I’m glad the administration has been getting in the game on this a little more recently. I think they were slow off the dime. I’d like to see somebody lose their job over this. I think it’s outrageous.’” (Mario Trujillo, “Two House Dems Call For Firings Over Health Care Rollout,” [The Hill’s Briefing Room](#), 10/23/13)

- **Representative Sean Maloney (D-NY): “The Ability Of Folks To Navigate These Exchanges Is More Important Than Protecting Anyone Who Failed To Do Their Job.”** “‘The success of this program and the ability of folks to navigate these exchanges is more important than protecting

anyone who failed to do their job,' Maloney said, according to a transcript provided by his office."
(Mario Trujillo, "Two House Dems Call For Firings Over Health Care Rollout," [The Hill's Briefing Room](#), 10/23/13)

Former Obama Press Secretary Robert Gibbs: "I Hope They Fire Some People That Were In Charge Of Making Sure This Thing Was Supposed To Work." GIBBS: "But, boy, if they don't get these glitches figured out fast, people aren't going to come back for visits 15 through 18. And I will say this. I hope they are working day and night to get this done. And when they get it fixed, I hope they fire some people that were in charge of making sure this thing was supposed to work. We knew there were going to be some glitches. But these were glitches that go, quite frankly, way beyond the pale of what should be expected."
(MSNBC's "Now With Alex Wagner," [MSNBC](#), 10/14/13)