



# Sebelius Shown The Door

## *As Secretary Sebelius Steps Aside, A Look At The Many Lowlights And Failures That Marked Her Tenure*

**Health And Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius “Is Resigning, Ending A Stormy Five-Year Tenure Marred By The Disastrous Rollout” Of ObamaCare.** “Kathleen Sebelius, the health and human services secretary, is resigning, ending a stormy five-year tenure marred by the disastrous rollout of President Obama’s signature legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act.” (Michael Shear, “Health Secretary Resigns After Woes Of Healthcare.Gov,” [The New York Times](#), 4/10/14)

- **Sebelius’s Exit Came After “Six Months Of Battering And Blame.”** “But that moment came only after six months of battering and blame over the botched roll-out of the healthcare.gov website. The enduring image of her five-year tenure as head of the huge agency is likely to be as the silver-haired woman sitting alone at a congressional hearing table, peering over reading glasses as she faced what often seemed to be an inquisition.” (Susan Page, “First Take: Sebelius Exits, Battered And Blamed,” [USA Today](#), 4/10/14)
- **Sebelius Wasn’t Even Mentioned By Obama At The Press Conference To Mark The End Of Open Enrollment.** “Even when President Obama held a victory rally of sorts last week in the Rose Garden, announcing that sign-ups had edged over the original goal of seven million, Sebelius was assigned a front-row seat but wasn’t called to join in the camera shot or thanked by name in the president’s remarks.” (Susan Page, “First Take: Sebelius Exits, Battered And Blamed,” [USA Today](#), 4/10/14)

### **SEBELIUS WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE FAILED OBAMACARE EXCHANGE LAUNCH**

**Sebelius, In July: “So We Are On Track To Flip The Switch On October First And Say To People Come On And Sign Up.”** SEBELIUS: “No, I think we’re on target. The data hub has been built and is ready to go. We are testing information flows back and forth. We have got the call center up and running. We have relaunched the website, were having outreach meetings, so we are on track to flip the switch on October 1st and say to people come on and sign up and as you said it is a six-month open enrollment period, so between October 1st and the 31st of March we hope to reach about 7 million people across the country and have them begin to engage and enroll in affordable health care, some for the first time ever.” (WFAA’s “Daybreak Sunday,” 7/28/13)

**On Day One, Consumers Faced Long Wait Times And “Problems With The Application Process.”** “Early issues that some people are seeing include long wait times for accessing the site, problems with the application process and long waits to chat with customer service representatives online.” (Jason Millman, “HHS: ‘Aware’ Of HealthCare.gov Issues,” [Politico](#), 10/1/13)

- **As State-Run ObamaCare Exchanges Functioned Slowly And Were Peppered With**

**Problems, The Federal ObamaCare Was “Trouble-Plagued.”** “Many state-run systems seemed to be functioning — albeit, in some cases, slowly and with scattered problems — but the federal system operating the exchanges for 34 states remained trouble-plagued.” (Richard Perez-Pena, Abby Goodnough, and Robert Pear, “Problems Persist On Second Day Of Insurance Markets,” [The New York Times](#), 10/2/13)

**The Wall Street Journal’s MarketWatch “Went 0-For-51 In Trying To Apply Online For ObamaCare In All 50 States And The District Of Columbia.”** “MarketWatch went 0-for-51 in trying to apply online for Obamacare in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Well, really 0-for-15 for D.C. and the states setting up their own exchanges, and we also struck out on HealthCare.gov, which is handling applications in the other 36 states.” (Russ Britt, “First-Day Batting Average For Online ObamaCare Applications: .000,” [The Wall Street Journal’s MarketWatch](#), 10/1/13)

### ***Sebelius Was Warned That Obamacare Wasn’t Ready For Launch***

**“[HHS] Senior Officials Expressed Doubts That The Computer Systems For The Federal Exchange Would Be Ready On Time.”** “Confidential progress reports from the Health and Human Services Department show that senior officials repeatedly expressed doubts that the computer systems for the federal exchange would be ready on time, blaming delayed regulations, a lack of resources and other factors.” (Robert Pear, Sharon Lafraniere, and Ian Austen, “From The Start, Signs Of Trouble At Health Portal,” [The New York Times](#), 10/13/13)

- **“Democratic Allies Repeatedly Warned The Obama Administration In Recent Months That The New Federal Health-Insurance Exchange Had Significant Problems.”** (Juliet Eilperin, Amy Goldstein, and Sandhya Somashekar, “Many Remain Locked Out Of Federal Health-Care Web Site,” [The Washington Post](#), 10/9/13)

**Throughout 2013, Industry And Government Officials Foresaw “A Train Wreck.”** “By early this year, people inside and outside the federal bureaucracy were raising red flags. ‘We foresee a train wreck,’ an insurance executive working on information technology said in a February interview. ‘We don’t have the I.T. specifications. The level of angst in health plans is growing by leaps and bounds. The political people in the administration do not understand how far behind they are.’” (Robert Pear, Sharon Lafraniere, and Ian Austen, “From The Start, Signs Of Trouble At Health Portal,” [The New York Times](#), 10/13/13)

### ***Sebelius’s Management Failures Embarrassed The Obama Administration***

**“Managerial” Issues Partly Led To The Problems Experienced By The ObamaCare Exchange.** “Interviews with two dozen contractors, current and former government officials, insurance executives and consumer advocates, as well as an examination of confidential administration documents, point to a series of missteps — financial, technical and managerial — that led to the troubles.” (Robert Pear, Sharon Lafraniere, and Ian Austen, “From The Start, Signs Of Trouble At Health Portal,” [The New York Times](#), 10/13/13)

**The ObamaCare Launch “Deeply Embarrassed The White House.”** “The growing national outcry has deeply embarrassed the White House, which has refused to say how many people have enrolled through the federal exchange.” (Robert Pear, Sharon Lafraniere, and Ian Austen, “From The Start, Signs Of Trouble At Health Portal,” [The New York Times](#), 10/13/13)

- **Former Obama Press Secretary Robert Gibbs: “Let’s Just Say This Is Excruciatingly Embarrassing For The White House And For The Department Of Health And Human Services.”** (MSNBC’s “Now With Alex Wagner,” [MSNBC](#), 10/14/13)

## **SEBELIUS HAS REPEATEDLY DELAYED OBAMACARE, DESPITE CONSISTENTLY PROMISING NOT TO**

**On December 31, 2013, Sebelius Said She Didn’t Anticipate Any New ObamaCare Delays.**

KIMBERLY SWANT: "Do you anticipate more delays?" KATHLEEN SEBELIUS: "No." ([Fox News](#), 12/31/13)

- **In January, Obama Extended The PCIP Enrollment Deadline, Set To End January 31 To March 15.** "The Obama administration announced Tuesday that it was again extending the ObamaCare enrollment deadline for people with pre-existing conditions. The administration said it would extend the Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan (PCIP), slated to end Jan. 31, until March 15." (Jonathan Easley, "WH Delays Another ObamaCare Deadline," [The Hill's Health Watch](#), 1/14/14)
- **In March, Obama Extended The ObamaCare Enrollment Deadline For People In The Pre-Existing Conditions Insurance Plan (PCIP) Program.** "The Obama administration is again extending a temporary ObamaCare program insuring some of the sickest patients in the country amid concerns not enough people will find new coverage by the end of the month. People enrolled in the temporary Pre-Existing Condition Insurance Plan, which was set to expire March 31, can purchase an extra month of coverage, the Obama administration said this afternoon. The PCIP program covers people who traditionally had trouble affording or finding individual insurance because of a medical condition." (Jason Millman, "HHS Will Let Sickest Patients Stay On Their Health Plans Longer," [The Washington Post](#), 3/14/14)

**Sebelius, On The March 31 Deadline: "We Don't Intend To Move That Date."** "The enrollment deadline is midnight, March 31. 'We don't intend to move that date,' Sebelius said at a press conference at Montclair State University." (Kathleen O'Brien, "Sebelius Stumps For ObamaCare In Return Visit To NJ," [The Star-Ledger](#), 3/24/14)

- **The Obama Administration Pushed Back The ObamaCare Enrollment Deadline To April 15.** "People who started signing up during open enrollment but didn't finish have until April 15 to finish signing up for coverage, while people who encountered any one of a number of problems that might have kept them from signing up are eligible for a so-called "special enrollment period" that would bring another 60 days to sign up." ("Obamacare Has 7.5 Million Sign Ups, Kathleen Sebelius Says," [The Associated Press](#), 4/10/14)

## **SEBELIUS SAID THAT AMERICANS COULD KEEP THEIR HEALTH CARE PLANS WHICH WAS NAMED THE "LIE OF THE YEAR"**

**Sebelius: "Any American, Who Likes Their Health Care, Has A Great Relationship With Their Doctor Keeps It."** SEBELIUS: "Well, I think when you start with the fact that 85 million Americans have private employer-based coverage, and many of them like what they have. And we start with the premise that any American, who likes their health care, has a great relationship with their doctor keeps it. You choose what you like." (Fox's [Fox & Friends](#), 5/12/09)

**Politifact Named "'If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Can Keep It,' The 'Lie Of The Year.'"** "Boiling down the complicated health care law to a soundbite proved treacherous, even for its promoter-in-chief. Obama and his team made matters worse, suggesting they had been misunderstood all along. The stunning political uproar led to this: a rare presidential apology. For all of these reasons, PolitiFact has named 'If you like your health care plan, you can keep it,' the Lie of the Year for 2013." (Angie Drobnic Holan, "Lie Of The Year: 'If You Like Your Health Care Plan, You Can Keep It,'" [Politifact](#), 12/12/13)

## **AND SHE SAID WHAT OBAMA PROBABLY DIDN'T WANT TO HEAR BUT EVERYONE KNEW: OBAMACARE WILL INCREASE PREMIUMS**

***Sebelius Was One Of The First In The Obama Administration To Pour Cold Water On ObamaCare's Lower Premiums Promise***

**In March 2013, Sebelius Admitted To Reporters That Health Care Premiums Could Rise Because Of ObamaCare.** “Some people purchasing new insurance policies for themselves this fall could see premiums rise because of requirements in the health-care law, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told reporters Tuesday.” (Louise Radnofsky, “Sebelius: Some Could See Insurance Premiums,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/26/13)

- **Sebelius: “These Folks Will Be Moving Into A Really Fully Insured Product For The First Time, And So There May Be A Higher Cost Associated With Getting Into That Market.”** ““These folks will be moving into a really fully insured product for the first time, and so there may be a higher cost associated with getting into that market,” she said.” (Louise Radnofsky, “Sebelius: Some Could See Insurance Premiums,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/26/13)
- **“Men And Younger Customers Could See Their Rates Increase” According To HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius.** “She also said that some men and younger customers could see their rates increase while women and older customers could see their rates drop because the law restricts insurers’ ability to set rates based on age and gender.” (Louise Radnofsky, “Sebelius: Some Could See Insurance Premiums,” [The Wall Street Journal](#), 3/26/13)

## SEBELIUS’S TIME AS HHS SECRETARY HAS BEEN SHROUDED IN CONTROVERSY

### *Sebelius Was Caught Using A Secret Email Account*

**The Associated Press Revealed That Some Of Obama’s Political Appointees, Including Sebelius, Were Using “Secret Governmental Email Accounts.”** “Some of President Barack Obama's political appointees, including the secretary for Health and Human Services, are using secret government email accounts they say are necessary to prevent their inboxes from being overwhelmed with unwanted messages, according to a review by The Associated Press.” (Jack Gillum, “Top Political Appointees Use Secret Email Accounts,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/4/13)

**“Secret Email Accounts Complicate An Agency's Legal Responsibilities To Find And Turn Over Emails In Response To Congressional Or Internal Investigations, Civil Lawsuits Or Public Records Requests.”** “The secret email accounts complicate an agency's legal responsibilities to find and turn over emails in response to congressional or internal investigations, civil lawsuits or public records requests because employees assigned to compile such responses would necessarily need to know about the accounts to search them. Secret accounts also drive perceptions that government officials are trying to hide actions or decisions.” (Jack Gillum, “Top Political Appointees Use Secret Email Accounts,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/4/13)

**“The Health And Human Services Department Initially Turned Over To The AP The Email Addresses For Roughly 240 Appointees — Except None Of The Email Accounts For Sebelius, Even One For Her Already Published On Its Website.”** (Jack Gillum, “Top Political Appointees Use Secret Email Accounts,” [The Associated Press](#), 6/4/13)

### *Sebelius Solicited Private Companies To Help Implement ObamaCare*

**Sebelius Sought “Assistance From Companies In The Health Care Field” To Implement ObamaCare.** “In telephone calls that began around March 23, officials say, Obama's top health care adviser has been seeking assistance from companies in the healthcare field and other industries as well as from healthcare providers, patient advocacy groups, churches and other charitable organizations.” (David Morgan, “Obama’s Health Secretary Seeks Donations From Companies For Healthcare Law,” [Reuters](#), 5/11/13)

**The Washington Post Editorial: HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Is “Dancing Around Serious Ethical Lines” By Soliciting Private Companies For Funds.** “The stakes for the Health and Human



Services Department, which is overseeing the transition, are tremendous. But they are not high enough to justify HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius dancing around serious ethical lines. The department admitted recently that Ms. Sebelius has solicited private support — including from insurance companies — for Enroll America, a nonprofit group devoted to expanding access that a former Obama administration staffer runs.” (Editorial, “Kathleen Sebelius Dances On An Ethical Line,” [The Washington Post](#), 5/18/13)

- **“Given That HHS Directly Controls The Markets In Which The Insurers Operate, We Would Hardly Blame Them For Reading A Lot, Even Too Much, Into The Secretary’s Requests And Feeling Nervous About Them.”** “The legal question is still murky. The ethical one is less so. The Post’s Sarah Kliff, who broke the story, reports that at least one official in the health-care industry felt pressure to give money and other forms of support to Enroll America. Given that HHS directly controls the markets in which the insurers operate, we would hardly blame them for reading a lot, even too much, into the secretary’s requests and feeling nervous about them. But even if they didn’t, it would have been easy to expect donations to curry favor with Ms. Sebelius.” (Editorial, “Kathleen Sebelius Dances On An Ethical Line,” [The Washington Post](#), 5/18/13)

### ***Sebelius Violated The Hatch Act***

**In 2012, The U.S. Office Of Special Counsel Ruled That HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Violated Hatch Act.** “HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius violated the Hatch Act, which prohibits certain political activity, when she made ‘extemporaneous partisan remarks’ during a speech in her official capacity earlier this year, the U.S. Office of Special Counsel said Wednesday.” (Jennifer Haberkorn, “HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Violated Hatch Act, OSC Concludes,” [Politico](#), 9/12/12)

**In Her Official Capacity As HHS Secretary, Sebelius Stumped For Obama And Lt. Governor Walter Dalton (D-NC) At A Human Rights Campaign Gala In North Carolina.** “During a speech to the Human Rights Campaign Gala in North Carolina in February, Sebelius said North Carolina Lt. Gov. Walter Dalton ‘needs to be the next governor of North Carolina.’ She also outlined the Obama administration’s accomplishments so far and said, ‘One of the imperatives is to make sure that we not only come together here in Charlotte to present the nomination to the president, but we make sure that in November he continues to be president for another four years.’” (Jennifer Haberkorn, “HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Violated Hatch Act, OSC Concludes,” [Politico](#), 9/12/12)

**OSC Special Counsel Carolyn N. Lerner Concluded That “Sebelius Violated The Hatch Act By Making Extemporaneous Political Remarks.”** “OSC concluded that Secretary Sebelius violated the Hatch Act by making extemporaneous political remarks,” OSC Special Counsel Carolyn N. Lerner wrote in a letter to President Barack Obama. ‘As the upcoming elections approach, this report offers an opportunity to remind federal employees of the complex Hatch Act restrictions.’” (Jennifer Haberkorn, “HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius Violated Hatch Act, OSC Concludes,” [Politico](#), 9/12/12)