Sylvia Mathews Burwell Confirmed as HHS Secretary

June 9, 2014

Sylvia Mathews Burwell, the former director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), was sworn in as secretary of Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), The Washington Post reports. The Senate confirmed her with a bipartisan vote of 78 to 17. She replaces Kathleen Sebelius, a former Kansas governor, who resigned in April.

The resignation by Sebelius came after she presided over the troubled rollout in 2013 of HealthCare.gov, which was hampered by technological problems that prevented sign-ups. Sebelius successfully managed fixes to the site, which has enrolled 8 million people in health plans under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

In her role at OMB, Burwell helped the Obama administration get through the shutdown of the federal government last October. She served in the Clinton administration and worked for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Burwell also was president of the Walmart Foundation.

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