Today Secretary Sebelius announced that Marilyn Tavenner will serve as interim administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). The U.S. Senate must confirm her nomination and according to media reports [2] she is expected to be confirmed.

Tavenner served as Secretary of Health and Human Services in Virginia, in the administration of Governor Tim Kaine, from 2006 to 2010. In 2010 she was named a principal assistant to Don Berwick, who resigned from the CMS top post effective December 2. Berwick [3] was a controversial pick of the Obama administration and Senate Republicans refused to confirm him.

Besides her state government cabinet level service in Virginia, Tavenner brings experience as a health care provider and hospital administrator. She has been a nurse and executive at the Hospital Corporation of America. She ran two suburban hospitals in Richmond and was chairwomen of the Virginia Hospital Association. She has also served as a trustee of the American Hospital Association.