

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 6, 2020

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verma,


We write to you in support of the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services' efforts to provide more flexibility to state Medicaid programs. This proposal gives state and local policy makers the opportunity to make the best possible health care decisions for their most vulnerable citizens and restores faith in their ability to exercise fiscal prudence. In Utah, we pride ourselves on our ability to provide for ourselves and our families while contributing to our communities. However, we also believe it is important to be compassionate to those in a time of need, and especially individuals who are unable to provide for themselves during difficult times.


As you know, Medicaid is a federal and state safety net program designed to offer wrap-around health care services for individuals or families with limited resources. These populations include seniors, individuals with cognitive or physical disabilities, or those living in severe poverty. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) significantly expanded the Medicaid program to include non-qualified US citizens and able-bodied adults without dependents. However, the unintended consequence of this expansion has been the exponential financial cost of Medicaid which puts those most in need at risk by creating significant delays in services and by diverting precious dollars from other programs that help struggling individuals.


Your proposal to permit states to limit funding for adult Medicaid enrollees covered under ACA expansion is a positive step to help control unsustainable spending and places the focus back on delivering high-quality health care for our sickest patients. This change would also lead to more Americans receiving insurance through private markets and help to drive down premiums for the millions of hard-working American families enrolled in the health care exchanges. Most importantly, your approach protects qualified Medicaid recipients by requiring states to continue offering essential health benefits that serve as the bedrock of the program.

We appreciate your work on this issue and welcome the opportunity to work with you to offer necessary clarity to state governments. Our home state of Utah also expressed support for these additional flexibilities. We look forward to reviewing all forthcoming proposals and urge an expedited review of each waiver application.

Sincerely,


John R. Curtis
Member of Congress
District 3, Utah


Chris Stewart
Member of Congress
District 2, Utah


Rob Bishop
Member of Congress
District 1, Utah