Indiana Hospital Association

September 19, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

On behalf of our more than 160 member hospitals, I would like to express the Indiana Hospital Association's (IHA's) enthusiastic support of the State of Indiana's HIP 2.0 waiver. As a fundamental principle, the IHA and our members support extending healthcare coverage as broadly as possible. And without question, HIP 2.0 would represent a monumental achievement in providing the security of coverage for thousands of working Hoosier families.

IHA has also long supported the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP), dating back to more than six years ago when the original legislation was developed. What is uniquely important about HIP is the manner through which coverage is made available. Using a thoughtful approach that takes into consideration the financial circumstances of its enrollees, HIP encourages individuals to exercise personal initiative and responsibility with respect to their health care decision-making. This approach directly contributes to the enrollees' receipt of quality and cost-effective health care services and it also generates high levels of enrollee satisfaction with HIP. Consequently, HIP has continued to earn our strong support.

IHA believes that expanding coverage through HIP is critical to improving the health status of our state. Indiana ranks poorly in many areas and it is essential that we not only provide coverage but also encourage preventative services and prudent utilization of services. HIP 2.0 contains the right mix of incentives to allow us to move the "front door" to the health care system from the emergency room to a primary care physician's office. In addition, by reimbursing providers at sustainable rates, this program ensures that expanded coverage will not represent an empty promise for enrollees and that access will be truly expanded throughout our state.

In conclusion, IHA believes that HIP has been an unqualified success and that Indiana and its citizens will be well-served if expanded through this HIP 2.0 waiver.

Sincerely,

Doug Leonard

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President

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