



**TIM RYAN, Mayor**

Board of County Commissioners District 7  
115 S. Andrews Avenue • Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301  
(954) 357-7007

June 9, 2015

Victoria Wachino, Director  
DHHS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-26-12  
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Ms. Wachino:

The Broward County Board of County Commissioners, on behalf of the 1.8 million residents and numerous visitors that benefit from the county's hospital special taxing districts, opposes the State of Florida's 1115 Managed Medical Assistance Waiver – Low Income Pool (LIP) amendment (Project Number 11-W-002064). Florida's waiver request and LIP model submission to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) would effectively raise the state match from public hospitals and substantially alter the distribution model for Medicaid payments. As one of the largest contributors to the existing match funds, Broward County strongly opposes any attempt to further redistribute dollars to the benefit of other counties and systems, which would be to the detriment of Broward's own people and systems.

Access to Medicaid services are already severely hampered, with specialists leaving the county and Medicaid recipients waiting inordinate times for appointments. Broward Health (the North Broward Hospital District) would see a Medicaid payment reduction of \$30.8 million in the first year. How can we explain to our residents who already struggle to receive adequate care and treatment that reductions of this magnitude are coming? As pointed out by the Florida Hospital Association, "[T]he new AHCA proposal creates an immediate and practical concern. Most of the negative impact it produces will fall on the very hospitals through which AHCA hopes to raise the State's Medicaid match via intergovernmental transfers (IGTs). This puts the viability of this proposal at great risk and makes its sustainability over time highly unlikely." Without Broward and Miami-Dade's support for this program, which is not forthcoming, the IGTs required to make the proposal successful, will also not be forthcoming.

As the second largest county in the state, Broward looks forward to supporting a viable approach that is equitable and sustainable to replace the current Low Income Pool. We know the CMS is charged with assuring the nation's most vulnerable people receive access to medical care and appropriate treatment; Broward County appreciates your efforts in this regard and is committed to the same.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tim Ryan".

Tim Ryan, Mayor

C: Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
Bertha Henry, County Administrator  
Mike Elwell, Director, Human Services Department  
Edward Labrador, Director, Intergovernmental Affairs & Professional Standards