



October 2, 2015

**Joseph Mullany**  
Chief Executive Officer

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Ms. Sylvia Mathews Burwell  
U.S. Secretary of Health  
& Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg.  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

The Detroit Medical Center (DMC) is pleased to report the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Healthy Michigan Plan has improved the health and wellbeing for Michigan residents, including thousands of those living in the city of Detroit. Today, the Healthy Michigan Plan provides access for more than 600,000 residents. With the DMC facilitating enrollment through community outreach, more than 35,000 of those previously uninsured Detroiters now have access to healthcare. **We urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to approve the state's recent 1115 waiver and allow this program to continue serving the residents of Detroit and our entire state.**

Lowering the cost of uncompensated care is critical to our continued ability to provide access. As Detroit's largest healthcare provider, the DMC embraces the responsibility of positively impacting the overall health and wellbeing of the residents in this region. While we work to maintain the nation's most successful Pioneer Accountable Care Organization (ACO), we also continue to be the state's largest provider of charity and uncompensated care.

Historically, DMC has experienced more than \$60M in uncompensated care costs annually. Now, under the provisions of the Healthy Michigan Plan, we receive financial support for our role in caring for those in our communities, regardless of their ability to pay. In 2014 alone, uncompensated care charges at the DMC were reduced by more than 50 percent. This program is critical to help the DMC address one of the nation's most medically challenged populations. Despite positive trends, Detroit is home to the highest rate of infant mortality, diabetes and other diseases. Addressing issues associated with uncompensated care allows us to invest in medical technology and research that will positively impact generations to come and decrease costs for everyone. Additionally, the federally funded Healthy Michigan Plan's Medicaid Hospital Rate Adjustment (HRA) payments have also provided relief to the DMC. Because of this program, DMC receives vital funding to help address costs for the newly insured.

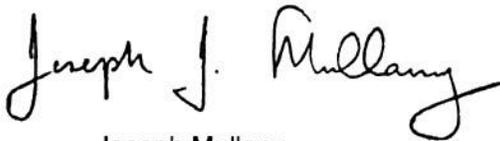
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This is a time of historic and critical change in healthcare, just as it is a time of historic transformation in Detroit. The DMC stands ready to work with our communities and government partners in addressing our healthcare needs and investing in our communities. By working with physicians across Michigan, we are increasing quality and decreasing costs through our nationally recognized Pioneer ACO program. We are working with CMS to positively impact population health with our Gateway to Health grant award, improving care coordination and implementing strategies to promote wellness. Again, federal investments and support are critical for these initiatives, which promise to bring transformative changes to traditional healthcare practices and substantially improve the health of residents within the community.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph J. Mullany". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M" at the end.

Joseph Mullany  
Chief Executive Officer  
Detroit Medical Center

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*In partnership with the Karmanos Cancer Center*