

Beaumont

Beaumont Health
2000 Town Center, Suite 1200
Southfield, MI 48075

October, 2015

To: Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services:

As President & CEO of Beaumont Health, I strongly endorse the State of Michigan amendment to its Section 1115 Demonstration Program, known as the Healthy Michigan Plan.

Beaumont is a comprehensive health care system consisting of eight hospitals with 3,337 beds and over 170 outpatient sites. Our primary service area includes approximately 40 percent of the population of Michigan. We estimate that more than 170,000 inpatient and outpatient visits will occur in 2015 covered by the Healthy Michigan Plan. Our physicians and other clinicians are seeing many citizens who were previously uninsured or unable to afford other coverage.

Before Healthy Michigan, these patients could not always afford primary care services, medications to treat illnesses or manage chronic conditions effectively. They were also not well supported in actively lowering their risk factors for disease through healthy lifestyle choices. This often resulted in an overreliance on emergency room services for routine care. Also, many patients would wait to be seen until their health situation was critical, making treatment more complex and expensive.

With Healthy Michigan, beneficiaries have dependable access to affordable health care services. Some have discovered serious illness and can now access treatment. Many more have taken advantage of opportunities to access preventive care and set health maintenance or improvement goals by working with Beaumont physicians, clinicians and community outreach initiatives.

As you know, Michigan law requires approval of the amended 1115 waiver as a condition of continuing coverage for Healthy Michigan Plan beneficiaries. I am concerned that if the amendment is not approved, the Healthy Michigan Plan will be eliminated—leaving more than half a million people without access to appropriate, affordable health care. We have a long way to go as providers and as regulators to achieve all the goals of the expansion of Medicaid in our state, but changing course now, and losing coverage for the 600,000 Michiganians covered by the plan, would be calamitous and divert us all from important work to improve quality and value in American healthcare today.

I ask that you approve the Department's Section 1115 Demonstration waiver amendment as soon as possible to ensure continued success of Michigan's coverage expansion under the Affordable Care Act.

Sincerely,



John T. Fox
President & CEO