



Texas House of Representatives
and
The Senate of Texas



Andy Slavitt
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
201 Independence Avenue, SW Room 445-G
Washington, D.C 20201

11/16/15

re: renewal of Texas 1115 Transformation Waiver

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt

First, let us say that we have not given up on achieving a coverage expansion in a way that works for Texas, and we will continue to work to find common ground with our colleagues in this state to create a workable solution. We mention this because CMS has made it clear in its negotiations with other states – Florida in particular – that those states making no effort to expand coverage to indigent residents cannot count on unconditional approval of pre-ACA Medicaid waivers; neither we nor Texas stakeholders here are blind to this fact.

We also acknowledge that the very problems that CMS found with Florida's renewal request also exist here in Texas, most notably the "encouragement toward overreliance on supplemental payments" and the "distribution of funds based on providers' access to local revenue instead of service to Medicaid patients." We agree that these are just some of the serious issues with the current funding scheme in this Texas.

However, this funding scheme – imperfect as it may be – is the only reason that our weak safety net is not yet weaker. While we acknowledge that 1115 funds do not benefit any individual, we stress that these dollars are a kickstand for institutions that do provide indigent care. We have already seen ten hospitals close largely because Texas has resisted any form of coverage expansion, and we

fear that this number will only increase if the 1115 waiver in its current form is not extended.

We therefore ask for both the continuation of the 1115 waiver at current funding levels as well as the opportunity to present a plan that will reduce the state's overreliance on 1115 waiver funds to provide a network of care for our most vulnerable residents.

Texas can do better, and we ask for the opportunity to prove it.

Sincerely,



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District 131



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District 104



Rep. Carol Alvarado
District 145



Rep. Rafael Anchia
District 103



Rep. Diego Bernal
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District 95



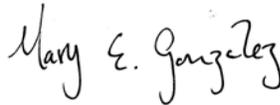
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