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www.OrganizeOhio.org •

August 5, 2016

Sylvia Matthews Burwell, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell,

On behalf of Organize! Ohio, I am writing to you to express our opposition to the 1115 Waiver submitted to the Department of Health and Human Services by the State of Ohio's Department of Medicaid. Organize! Ohio is an organization that works to promote and assist grassroots community organizing in Ohio. Most of the groups with which we work are comprised of predominately low income Ohioans.

The intent of the 1115 waiver has always been to increase health coverage and access to health coverage for those who would not otherwise be able to afford health care. The waiver submitted would be counter to those objectives. The waiver would require Ohioans on Medicaid to make regular payments into an account to cover co-pays. This is highly problematic. First, the people receiving Medicaid are very low income, and any payment into a "health savings account" will be onerous to them. Secondly, presumably these payments will have to be made into a bank account. Most low income people do not have bank accounts, and they will not go through the process nor the expense of setting one up. The outcome of this waiver, if approved, is that as many as 140,000 low income persons would lose health care coverage per year.

If approved, the Medicaid waiver will not only detrimentally affect those persons who would otherwise have health coverage, but the health care system in general. The current efforts to emphasize preventative health care would be substantially harmed. At the same time, it would put a substantial burden on our hospital system as it would stimulate an over reliance on emergency rooms for care, a problem that had been abating.

For these reasons we urge you to deny the 1115 waiver request. To do so will only benefit Ohio's low income population, and the state of Ohio as well.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Bresler".

Lawrence Bresler
Executive Director

July 27, 2016

Sylvia Matthews Burwell, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20201

Subject: Public Comment(s) regarding Ohio's Submission to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services for an 1115 Waiver known as Healthy Ohio

My name is Leah Martin and I am a Medicaid consumer in the State of Ohio. The 1115 Waiver as submitted for approval to CMS will directly affect me as I am not disabled nor am I a pregnant woman or under the age of 18.

What concerns me about this Waiver application is that there is a very real possibility that it will harm more people rather than it will help. It is my opinion that many, many people will be cut off the program because it requires payments from people like myself who are on very limited incomes and the program will become extremely complicated and burdensome. If approved, the Waiver will ultimately force people off of Medicaid. For many of us, the State of Ohio's expansion of Medicaid under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act was the first time in our adulthood that we have had regular access to health care. If we are to stay healthy, the program as it currently exists must continue.

Here are my major concerns:

- Making a regularly monthly payment into a health savings account will be nearly impossible as I have a very limited income. Housing, food and transportation costs must come first.
- If I were dropped from the program, it would be next to impossible for me to pay what I owe plus the required payment to get back onto Medicaid.
- I do not have a bank account, nor could I afford the charges if I did set one up in order to pay the monthly co-pay.
- I have a chronic illness (lung, heart, diabetes, hypertension, etc.) that if goes untreated because I lost Medicaid coverage would create more serious health problems and end up costing the State even more if I have to access my care through the emergency room.

I urge you to NOT approve the State of Ohio's 1115 Waiver application.

Sincerely,

Leah Martin
1804 E. 55th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44103

July 27, 2016

Sylvia Matthews Burwell, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20201

Subject: Public Comment(s) regarding Ohio's Submission to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services for an 1115 Waiver known as Healthy Ohio

My name is Khalil Hamin and I am a Medicaid consumer in the State of Ohio. The 1115 Waiver as submitted for approval to CMS will directly affect me as I am not disabled nor am I a pregnant woman or under the age of 18.

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I urge you to NOT approve the State of Ohio's 1115 Waiver application.

Sincerely,



8925 Hough Ave Apt 106
Cleveland, OH 44111

July 27, 2016

Sylvia Matthews Burwell, Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington DC 20201

Subject: Public Comment(s) regarding Ohio's Submission to the Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services for an 1115 Waiver known as Healthy Ohio

My name is JOSHALA FAVORS and I am a Medicaid consumer in the State of Ohio. The 1115 Waiver as submitted for approval to CMS will directly affect me as I am not disabled nor am I a pregnant woman or under the age of 18.

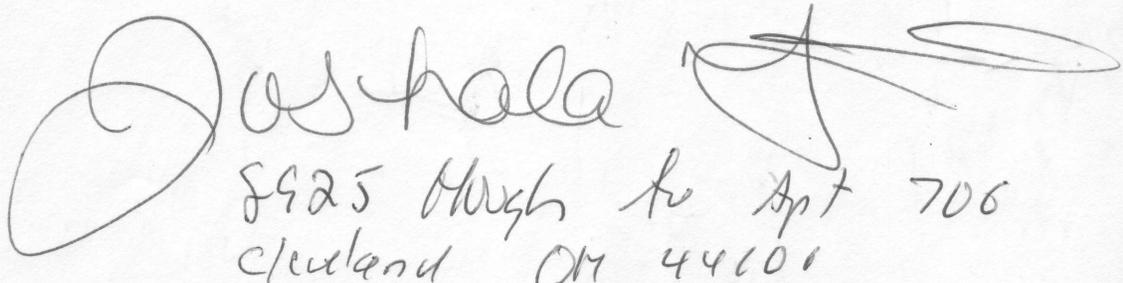
What concerns me about this Waiver application is that there is a very real possibility that it will harm more people rather than it will help. It is my opinion that many, many people will be cut off the program because it requires payments from people like myself who are on very limited incomes and the program will become extremely complicated and burdensome. If approved, the Waiver will ultimately force people off of Medicaid. For many of us, the State of Ohio's expansion of Medicaid under the provisions of the Affordable Care Act was the first time in our adulthood that we have had regular access to health care. If we are to stay healthy, the program as it currently exists must continue.

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- I have a chronic illness (lung, heart, diabetes, hypertension, etc.) that if goes untreated because I lost Medicaid coverage would create more serious health problems and end up costing the State even more if I have to access my care through the emergency room.

I urge you to NOT approve the State of Ohio's 1115 Waiver application.

Sincerely,


Joshala
5925 Hugh Ln Apt 706
Cleveland OH 44106