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Dr. Eliot Fishman
Director, State Demonstrations Group
Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd, Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244

October 8, 2016

Dear Dr. Fishman:

I am writing on behalf of Kentucky Voices for Health, a coalition of more than 200 consumer advocacy groups, health care organizations, and individuals working to improve the health of ALL Kentuckians. We believe that the best healthcare solutions are found when everyone works together to build them.

As health advocates who have worked hand-in-hand with state agencies, providers, kynectors, legal aid programs and others across the Commonwealth to get Kentucky covered, we are proud of Kentucky's success and the difference coverage is making in the lives of more than 440,000 Kentuckians.

With the health and wellbeing of 1.2 MILLION Kentuckians at stake, we find it alarming that Governor Bevin has vowed to end Medicaid expansion if the U.S. Department for Health & Human Services does not approve the Kentucky HEALTH plan. We strongly urge Governor Bevin not to put the health and economic security of our Commonwealth at risk. Medicaid expansion is working for Kentucky and we must take steps that build on that success.

As advocates, we believe it is imperative that there be meaningful stakeholder input to ensure that the 1115 waiver is designed to improve the health and wellbeing of Kentuckians. The following comments have been prepared with direct input and support from over a twelve hundred Kentuckians as well as a number of our member organizations, including:

Advocacy Action Network, American Lung Association, Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, Cumberland Family Medical Centers, Fairview Community Health Center, Family Health Centers, Friedell Committee, Health Reentry Coalition of Kentucky, Housing & Homeless Coalition of Kentucky, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Kentucky Council of Churches, Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Kentucky Primary Care Association, Kentucky Psychological Association, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, and Shawnee Christian Healthcare Center.

We appreciate this opportunity to share the feedback that was provided to Governor Bevin and his Administration during the state public comment period, our comments on the final proposal submitted to HHS in August, and stakeholder input collected during the federal comment period. As advocates, we stand ready and willing to work collaboratively with Governor Bevin and HHS to design a final proposal that will truly move Kentucky's health, economy and quality of life forward.

Respectfully,



Emily Beauregard, MPH
Executive Director

Enclosure