

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

October 11, 2017

The Honorable Eric Hargan, Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney, Director  
The Office of Management and Budget  
725 17<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20503

Administrator Verma  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

**Re: Arkansas' Pending 1115 Waiver Amendments**

Dear Acting Secretary Hargan, Director Mulvaney, and Administrator Verma,

We write to express our strong support for the changes Arkansas is seeking to the Arkansas Works Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Project that the state submitted to Health and Human Services on June 30, 2017.

We urge immediate approval of Arkansas' request to ensure that Arkansas has sufficient time to implement program changes and provide notice to impacted beneficiaries. With 2018 rapidly approaching, approval can provide certainty for Arkansans, health care providers, and health insurance carriers.

We appreciated the Administration's outreach urging Arkansas to pursue innovative Medicaid reforms. In particular, HHS and CMS suggested that Arkansas prioritize taxpayer dollars to protect the most vulnerable populations. Arkansas has followed this guidance and designed a solution that will reduce the state's Medicaid rolls by over 60,000, increase the sustainability of Arkansas Works, and encourage more Arkansans to enter the workforce.

To achieve this goal, Arkansas is seeking changes including (1) lowering the income limit for Arkansas Works eligibility from 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL) to 100% FPL; (2) establishing work requirements as a condition of eligibility for able-bodied adults that do not have children at home; (3) and implementing the state's waiver of retroactive eligibility.


These waiver amendments are consistent with the principles and values articulated by the Administration, and will help reduce Medicaid growth at both the federal and state level.


Earlier this year, Governor Hutchinson called a special session of the Arkansas General Assembly to authorize this waiver amendment request and instructed the state's Department of Human Services, and their Insurance Department to work with stakeholders to prepare for implementation. Arkansas has invested significant resources in this effort, but federal approval is needed to continue moving forward.


It is vital that these amendments be approved so that Arkansas can best serve the unique healthcare needs of Arkansans and promote a fiscally responsible path forward.


Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this matter.


Sincerely,

  
John Boozman  
U.S. Senator

  
Tom Cotton  
U.S. Senator

  
Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress

  
French Hill  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

  
Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress