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September 19, 2014

Cindy Mann, Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid
Department of Health and Human Services

Via Electronic Submission

RE: AARP Comments Concerning the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 1115 Demonstration Application

Dear Ms. Mann:

We are writing to comment on the Healthy Indiana Plan 2.0 1115 Demonstration Application (“HIP 2.0”) in its present form, which constitutes Indiana’s strategy to expand health coverage to all individuals below 138 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, with a membership of nearly 38 million, that helps people turn their goals and dreams into real possibilities, strengthens communities and fights for the issues that matter most to families such as healthcare, employment and income security, retirement planning, affordable utilities and protection from financial abuse.

AARP welcomes this opportunity to comment on HIP 2.0 and stands ready to help ensure this plan can be implemented in ways that not only increase coverage, but also improve access and quality. AARP supported the passage of the HIP program by the Indiana General Assembly in 2007, and believes everyone should have access to affordable health care. Since the passage of the ACA, AARP Indiana was one of many groups that worked tirelessly to promote the expansion of health benefits to more than 350,000 hard-working Hoosiers.

We recognize that HIP 2.0 is the state’s attempt to rectify this coverage gap, and support state innovation in developing coverage expansion approaches. However, concerns remain about the lock-out provisions for members who do not make POWER Account payments on time, and the request to waive retroactive eligibility and delay enrollment until the first POWER Account payment is made. We encourage CMS to work with the state to find a mutually agreeable solution to these remaining issues that allows for the implementation of HIP 2.0.

In conclusion, AARP supports expansion of the Medicaid program under the ACA, and believes that Indiana's HIP 2.0 approach can serve as a viable option. AARP urges CMS and the State of Indiana to work together to address these issues. As in the past, AARP stands ready to work with CMS and the State of Indiana to work on a solution that will extend health care coverage to more Hoosiers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the HIP 2.0 Section 1115 Waiver Application. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact KJ Hertz on our Government Affairs staff at (202) 434-3732 or khertz@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Certner", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Certner
Legislative Counsel and Legislative Policy Director
Government Affairs