



September 19, 2014

The Honorable Sylvia Burwell  
U.S. Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Madam Secretary,

I am writing on behalf of Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), the leading national organization solely dedicated to representing Medicaid managed care plans that contract with states to provide health care coverage to Medicaid beneficiaries. MHPA represents more than 120 health plans in 33 states and D.C., providing health care coverage for nearly 20 million Medicaid enrollees. MHPA member health plans are full-risk managed care plans that provide high-quality, coordinated, and cost-effective care that takes a person-centered approach, while providing states with program integrity and budget predictability.

My comments are regarding the recent 1115 waiver application submission by Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) on the State's plan to use the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) as the platform to extend Medicaid coverage to those who are currently uninsured. We commend your agency's work with Indiana in allowing for flexibility within the waiver development process to achieve the goal of extending coverage to more residents in a way that is fitting for the State's individual Medicaid program and the unique populations it serves.

MHPA represents Medicaid health plans operating in Indiana and these health plans participate in the existing HIP program that currently serves more than 45,000 Hoosiers through a coordinated care environment. Along with our Indiana member health plans, we support the State's effort to expand coverage to 350,000 newly eligible, non-disabled Hoosiers with incomes up to 133% of the federal poverty level through HIP 2.0. We support an expansion of the HIP program given that it has demonstrated success by incentivizing individuals to seek more appropriate care in less costly settings, which has reduced emergency room usage by 7%. At this time, we are not taking positions on specific provisions within the proposed waiver, but wish to express strong support for the State's general approach because of its proven track record.

We recognize that elements of one state's Medicaid expansion proposal might not work for every state. As MHPA continues to analyze alternative expansion models in greater detail, our organization appreciates the consideration your agency is giving to states by working with them to extend coverage to their most vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Myers', is written over a light blue circular stamp.

Jeff Myers  
President and CEO