May 17, 2018

The Honorable Steven Mnuchin  
Secretary of the Treasury  
Department of the Treasury  
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20220

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Mnuchin and Secretary Azar,

We write to request that the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services grant Maryland’s application for a Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver as soon as possible. We urge that this process include careful and thorough consideration of key stakeholder’s input such as the Maryland Medical Society.

Earlier this year, the Maryland General Assembly voted to establish a state-based reinsurance program, the Maryland State Reinsurance Program. The Governor and both Democratic and Republican leaders strongly support this effort to address premium costs and access to affordable healthcare in our state. The Maryland Insurance Administration estimates that the State Reinsurance Program would lower premium rates market-wide by as much as 30 percent and would lead to a reduction in federal payments of advance premium tax credits. By contrast, without federal approval, rates for many individual market plans could increase substantially.

The matter is urgent because the Maryland Insurance Administration must finalize the approval of the individual market rates by September 1, 2018. Accordingly, on behalf of our constituents, we urge you to complete your consideration of Maryland’s waiver application as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin  
United States Senator

Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator
Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

C. A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress

Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

Elijah E. Cummings
Member of Congress

John P. Sarbanes
Member of Congress

John K. Delaney
Member of Congress

Anthony G. Brown
Member of Congress