

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

December 1, 2016

The Honorable Sylvia M. Burwell
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Burwell:

The State of Maryland is committed to enhancing our health care delivery system to improve the quality of care, improve health outcomes for our communities and reduce the cost of care provided in the State. As you know, our State's All-Payer Demonstration Model is a statewide effort that covers 800,000 Medicare beneficiaries and 6 million Marylanders, and has met or exceeded every quality and performance requirement included in the model contract.

In order to keep moving forward toward streamlined care coordination, we have worked collaboratively with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Innovation (CMMI) to amend the State's current All-Payer Demonstration Model to allow for greater care coordination and data sharing between and among patient designated providers and hospitals. We are grateful for the efforts of your agency to approve these amendments, which was announced at the annual meeting with CMMI in September. We now ask your help to finalize the legal documents that will effectuate these important amendments. We understand that these legal documents have been under review by the Office of the General Counsel and the Office of Inspector General.

It has also been our understanding that these documents to support the care redesign amendments would have been cleared in October 2016. It is now early December, and the State has not received clearance to date. We urge OGC and OIG to complete their review and finalize these legal documents by the end of the year.


The State is also working on a Progression Plan that proposes a second phase of the Maryland Medicare All-Payer Demonstration Model that will leverage and build on Maryland's hospital per capita model by expanding efforts to align hospitals, physicians, and other providers in delivery system reforms to improve outcomes, engage patients, and contain costs. Integral to the success of this second phase is the support and collaboration of the many diverse stakeholders, which the State has brought together.

We in Maryland remain committed to achieving the mutual goals we have set out in the All-Payer Model. We thank you for your efforts to secure the legal documents that we need to

implement the amendments that were already approved by CMS and look forward to working with you in the future.


Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

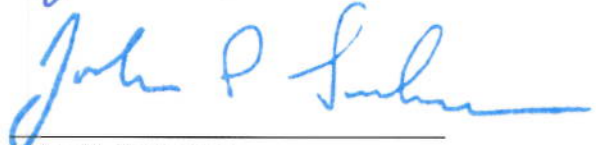

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator


Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator


Steny H. Hoyer
Member of Congress

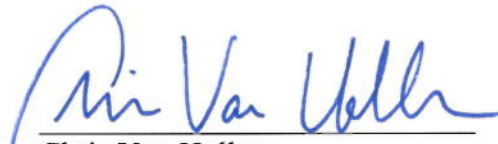

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Andrew P. Harris
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CC. Dr. Patrick Conway, Deputy Administrator for Innovation & Quality, Chief Medical Officer, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services