

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 6, 2017

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

Seema Verma, Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
201 Independence Avenue, SW Room 445-G
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Texas Request to Extend the Medicaid 1115 Waiver

Dear Secretary Price and Administrator Verma,

We write to support the extension of the Texas Healthcare Transformation and Quality Improvement Program 1115 demonstration waiver ("1115 Waiver"). Families, hospitals, and other critical care providers in our state rely heavily on the funding preserved through this waiver, especially as state officials show little interest in strengthening the state's shredded medical safety net.


After lawmakers in Texas decided not to extend Medicaid to an estimated 864,000 uninsured Texans, Texas continues to have both the highest percentage and highest total number of uninsured individuals. Nearly one in five Texans is uninsured, which places a heavy burden on our local hospitals. Without the 1115 Waiver, Texas communities would face an estimated \$1.3 billion cut in health care funding in 2018.


The state faces a total of almost \$9 billion in uncompensated care costs—even when factoring in payments under the current waiver, that number only decreases to \$4 billion, according to a 2016 report.

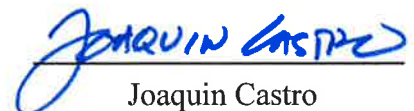
State officials have cut state Medicaid support to the bone, refused additional federal funds, and actively supported the American Health Care Act's more than \$800 billion in cuts to Medicaid. However, the harm from a non-renewal of this waiver would fall on struggling families, and local health care providers, and local taxpayers.

To avoid any additional barriers to health care access, we support reaching an 1115 Waiver agreement.

Sincerely,


Lloyd Doggett


Gene Green


Joaquin Castro