



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3605**

March 31, 2020

The Honorable Seema Verma  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Administrator Verma,

During the outbreak of the 2019 novel coronavirus, COVID-19, our hospitals and health care professionals across the United States have been on the front lines of the response. These pillars of our health care system need to be able to rely on some level of stability as they are facing increasingly difficult scenarios in which their workforce is stretched thin and hospitals are operating at full capacity. While Congress acted to increase the federal percentage of Medicaid dollars flowing to states during this particular Public Health Emergency, the states are likely to require substantial state funding to allow for adequate reimbursement for COVID-19 related services.

We appreciate the guidance released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to aid states in their COVID-19 responses, especially the flexibility provided through 1135 waivers. However, we continue to hear from our states that the potential changes to their existing financing mechanisms for their share of Medicaid payments could hinder their ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Out of an abundance of caution to ensure that our hospitals are focused on COVID-19 during this Public Health Emergency, we would respectfully ask that you not finalize the proposed 2019 Medicaid Fiscal Accountability Regulation (MFAR) until the Public Health Emergency has come to end.

Maintaining the fiscal integrity of the Medicaid program is a critical goal, and we want to work together on this once we are through this crisis. We are especially grateful for the transparency provisions of the rule, and once this pandemic comes to an end, we hope to see those provisions finalized as soon as possible. However, finalizing the payment aspects of this

rule during a pandemic outbreak of COVID-19 in the United States could prove especially detrimental for our states and their responses.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a robust COVID-19 response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael C. Burgess".

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Pete Olson".

Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Flores".

Bill Flores  
Member of Congress