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August 17, 2018

Seema Verma  
Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verma,

I am writing to urge you and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to reapprove the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Medicaid Waiver under Section 1115 of the Medicaid Law. The Kentucky waiver seeks to establishing work requirements as part of the state's Medicaid program.

The expansion of Medicaid has put significant financial strain on state budgets due to the increased eligibility, loss of federal funds and the exponential increase in health care costs. While the ACA was intended to increase access to healthcare for Americans, but in reality, Medicaid is an insurance program. It has not increased access to healthcare. Significant studies have shown Medicaid recipients face poorer health care options, then even Medicare recipients or even individuals without health insurance. The purpose of establishing work requirements is to ensure individuals have health insurance as they work their way out of entitlement programs. There is nothing more powerful than a family sustaining job. More importantly, work will also allow individuals to move from medical assistance to private health insurance which is proven to provide better health outcomes.

Additionally, states such as Pennsylvania and Kentucky have found that significant portion of the expansion population are abled-bodied individuals between the ages of 19-64 who report zero income. In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, 376,185 individuals who are abled-bodied enrolled under Medicaid expansion and report zero income. This number represents more than

50% of our Medicaid expansion population. Kentucky's experience is no different, as expansion resulted in 428,000 able-bodied individuals being enrolled into Medicaid due to expansion under the ACA. Not only does this amount to 33% of Kentucky's total enrollee's under Medicaid, state spending on abled-bodied adults since 2011 has increased fivefold reaching over \$4 billion this year.

Work requirements offer a solution to this growing problem facing Kentucky, Pennsylvania and other states across the nation. As seen by the success of Governor Lepage's reforms enacting work requirements for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, Maine realized millions in savings for taxpayers. More importantly, the employment requirement resulted in higher weekly wages and family income to those enrolled into the program.

By reapproving Kentucky's waiver CMS can provide an opportunity, not only for Kentucky, but every state, to improve the lives of those enrolled in Medicaid through higher wages while ensuring care continues to the most vulnerable. I strongly urge you to reapprove the Commonwealth of Kentucky's proposed waiver to their Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seth Grove". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Seth Grove**

State Representative  
196th Legislative District