



April 24, 2018

Mike Randol
Medicaid Director
State of Iowa, Department of Human Services
100 Army Post Road
Des Moines, IA 50315

Dear Director Randol:

The undersigned organizations write today to offer to serve as a resource to you and your staff. Together, we represent millions of patients with serious and chronic health conditions. In advance of any proposals that would alter your state's Medicaid program, we would like to meet and discuss any such proposals' impact on health coverage for our patients.

Our organizations are committed to ensuring that all patients can obtain affordable, accessible, and adequate health care coverage. Medicaid provides coverage to 68 million individuals and is a critical program for many patients living with serious and chronic health conditions.

As you know, under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act, states can apply to change provisions of federal Medicaid law for demonstration projects that are likely to promote the objectives of the Medicaid program, such as testing new delivery and payment models or improving behavioral health services. We understand that states are under significant pressure to reduce their Medicaid spending and may want to use 1115 waivers to implement changes to control their health care costs.

While fiscal sustainability is important, it cannot take precedence over the wellbeing and health of patients. Our organizations are deeply concerned by recent proposals to use the 1115 waiver process to make changes to Medicaid that could adversely impact patients. Some states have submitted waivers that will increase barriers to seeking care, disrupt continuity of treatments and medications, limit the number of people eligible to enroll in coverage, and limit coverage options for those unable to pay. The connection between health insurance and health outcomes is clear and well documented. These changes could threaten patients' access to care and have devastating—and sometimes life or death—implications for those patients with chronic and serious diseases.

If Iowa is considering using the 1115 waiver process or other avenues to make changes to your state's Medicaid program, we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you before any proposals are released to discuss them and provide feedback on their impact on the patients that we represent. We stand ready to work with you to ensure that individuals and families continue to have access to affordable and adequate health coverage. Roxanne Cogil from Epilepsy Foundation of Iowa, rcogil@efa.org or 515-238-7660, serve as a point of contact to our organizations and will follow up with you about a meeting.

Sincerely,

American Heart Association
American Lung Association in Iowa
ASK Resource Center
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Disabilities Resource Center of Siouxland
Easter Seals Iowa
Epilepsy Foundation
Illinois Iowa CIL
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC)
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Milestones Area Agency on Aging
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Tech4Impact