

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

May 7, 2018

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Illinois Hospital Assessment Program

Dear Administrator Verma,

The Illinois Hospital Assessment Program is critical to assuring access to hospital care for Illinois' most vulnerable patients and is a critical component of our state's Medicaid program. In order to better reflect the changing health care delivery system and preserve access to quality health care for its Medicaid beneficiaries, the State of Illinois submitted for your review and approval an updated Hospital Assessment Program to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on March 30, 2018. Components of the current Illinois Medicaid State Plan sunset on June 30, 2018. We write to urge CMS to expeditiously review and approve these Illinois state plan amendments, which include significant reforms to modernize the Illinois Hospital Assessment Program.

The current Hospital Assessment Program in Illinois is based on utilization data from more than 10 years ago. In order to more accurately reflect the utilization of health care services by the state's Medicaid beneficiaries, the redesigned assessment plan submitted by the State is based on data from State Fiscal Year 2015, the most recent available data. An important advancement in the new design is the shift to a more dynamic reimbursement system with less reliance on fixed annual supplemental payments. This shift supports a system which more closely aligns reimbursement with actual services rendered to Medicaid beneficiaries. This is a significant policy change for Illinois, and one that will help bolster the state's continued movement to capitated managed care.

The Illinois state plan amendments currently before CMS propose significant reforms to address delivery system changes and pressing needs by incentivizing outpatient services and addressing the critical and growing need for behavioral health services. The plan also seeks to provide stability and a pathway to healthcare delivery transformation by creating a program that supports hospitals as they transform to best meet the needs of their communities.

Most importantly, the Illinois plan aims to support our Safety Net and Critical Access Hospitals and maintain access to care for our most vulnerable populations in both urban and rural communities across the state.

After months of collaboration between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services, a bipartisan legislative oversight work group, and a unified hospital community represented by the Illinois Health and Hospital Association, the updated Hospital Assessment Program legislation—which authorized the proposed state plan amendments—was approved with overwhelming bipartisan support by the Illinois General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Rauner.

We recognize and appreciate the thoughtful review process that CMS conducts for state plan amendments. Given the significant impact this program has on ensuring access to care in our state, we urge the agency to move expeditiously with its review to provide stable funding for the state, particularly in light of the June 30th sunset date.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter. We look forward to working with you to support the modernization of the Illinois Hospital Assessment Program to preserve access to care for Illinois Medicaid beneficiaries.

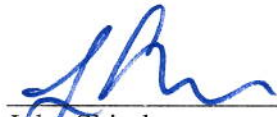
Sincerely,



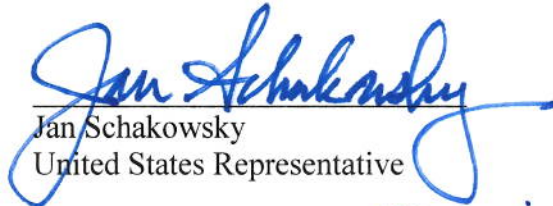
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



John Shimkus
United States Representative



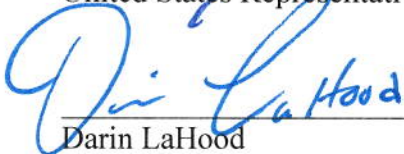
Jan Schakowsky
United States Representative



Rodney Davis
United States Representative



Danny K. Davis
United States Representative



Darin LaHood
United States Representative



Bill Foster
United States Representative



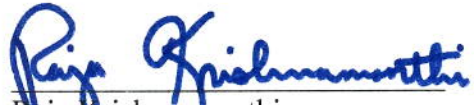
Randy Hultgren
United States Representative



Bradley S. Schneider
United States Representative



Peter J. Roskam
United States Representative



Raja Krishnamoorthi
United States Representative



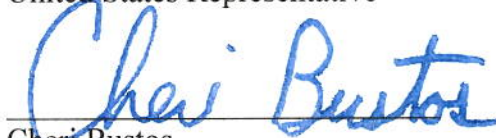
Adam Kinzinger
United States Representative




Mike Quigley
United States Representative



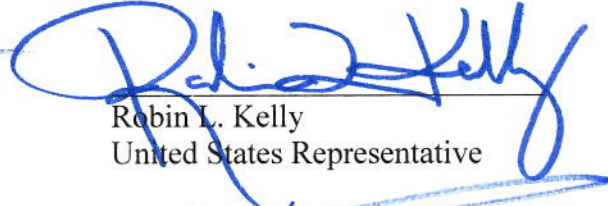
Mike Bost
United States Representative



Cheri Bustos
United States Representative



Bobby L. Rush
United States Representative



Robin L. Kelly
United States Representative



Daniel W. Lipinski
United States Representative



Luis V. Gutierrez
United States Representative