

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

June 2, 2021

Elizabeth Fowler  
Deputy Administrator and Director, CMS Innovation Center  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
2810 Lord Baltimore Drive  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Deputy Administrator and Director Fowler:

With this letter, we are reasserting and clarifying our commitment to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) which is intended to test different innovative delivery system and payment models to improve quality in providing care to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries. We also believe there is room for improvement regarding its authority and obligations, particularly pertaining to the scope and duration of demonstration projects and the transparency of its actions and decision-making processes. In this regard, there are bipartisan concerns.

We note that the authorizing statute requires the gathering of “input from interested parties.” However, adequate consultation and transparency in the processes used to develop these experiments are rarely observed and CMMI demonstrations are less effective than they could be for the lack of this external expertise. We believe that CMMI could strengthen its model development by allowing more stakeholder engagement. Further, Congress and the public need to know how results will be sampled and evaluated and which beneficiaries stand to be affected. The Department of Health and Human Services needs to reveal the modeling which produces estimates of savings and how quality will be affected. Consistently, modeling has been biased toward savings rather than improving beneficiary health or addressing health disparities. Stakeholders need to know what analytics and standards are used to define a successful demonstration.

As we look toward the future of CMMI, we believe it will be stronger with greater transparency and increased participation from stakeholders. We believe in greater use of real-time data to immediately understand the impact of models on healthcare providers and patients so that decisions can be made quickly about the value of a demonstration. And we insist CMMI’s actions reflect its intended mission, to carry out demonstration of projects of limited scope and duration to test new payment and delivery concepts.

We kindly request that you share your plans for making CMMI a more transparent and we would like to learn more about how you will develop models that focus on measurable cost savings, address beneficiary health, and reduce health disparities through models that are both appropriately scoped and can be adopted or abandoned based on their impact. We look forward to working with you to ensure CMMI is effective in designing and assessing innovative delivery system models which will improve quality for Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and reduce health system costs.

Sincerely,

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Washington, DC 20515



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Terri A. Sewell  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Colin Z. Allred  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Tony Cárdenas  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ed Case  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Bill Johnson  
Member of Congress

/s/  
John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Ron Kind  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Stephanie Murphy  
Member of Congress

/s/  
Tom Rice  
Member of Congress

**Congress of the United States**  
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/s/

Brian Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress

/s/

John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

/s/

Jason Smith  
Member of Congress

/s/

Kurt Schrader  
Member of Congress

/s/

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress

/s/

Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Member of Congress

/s/

Paul Tonko  
Member of Congress

/s/

David Schweikert  
Member of Congress

/s/

Brad Wenstrup, D.P.M.  
Member of Congress