

April 13, 2011

The Honorable Secretary Sebelius
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W., Room 120-F
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius,

The undersigned organizations write to encourage you to finalize the proposed regulations on public participation in Section 1115 research and demonstration proposals (75 FR 56946) as soon as possible.

Many states are considering significant changes to their Medicaid programs that would require that they request waivers of provisions of the Medicaid statute under Section 1115. Final regulations are needed to ensure transparency and an opportunity for public input. We understand that you have many competing priorities, and we are sympathetic to the heavy demands on your department. Nonetheless, given that many states are already discussing Medicaid waivers, we hope that you will make finalizing these important regulations a top priority.

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

AARP

AFSCME

American Art Therapy Association

American Association on Health and Disability

American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living

American Music Therapy Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Community Access National Network

Community Catalyst

Easter Seals

Families USA

First Focus

Georgetown University Center for Children and Families

HIV Medicine Association

Lutheran Services in America Disability Network

Mental Health America

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

National Association for Children's Behavioral Health

National Association of Children's Hospitals

National Association of Community Health Centers

National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities

National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Law Program
National Women's Law Center
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Service Employees International Union
The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy
The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
Treatment Access Expansion Project
United Spinal Association

cc:

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Certification

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