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:

Cindy Mann
Deputy Administrator & Director
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey & Certification

Vikki Wachino
Director
Children and Adults Health Programs Group