

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

September 7, 2016

Mr. Andy Slavitt  
Acting Administrator  
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt,

We are writing to express our strong support for approval of Massachusetts' Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Project Amendment and Extension Request (the "Demonstration"). While the current Demonstration is authorized through June 30, 2019, the Safety Net Care Pool portion of the Demonstration is set to expire two years earlier on June 30, 2017. The Demonstration proposal that Massachusetts has submitted is therefore critical to ensuring that the Commonwealth does not lose federal authorization for over a billion dollars in annual expenditures.

Massachusetts has developed a Demonstration proposal that will serve the Commonwealth's Medicaid beneficiaries while carrying out a bold restructuring of its delivery and payment systems. We ask for your continued support of the Commonwealth's efforts through approval of the Demonstration.

Massachusetts and CMS share a commitment to providing access to high-quality healthcare for all citizens and to improving the delivery of care to vulnerable populations. Indeed, Massachusetts is a national leader in providing health coverage to its residents. The Commonwealth's current level of coverage is over 96 percent, the highest in the nation. The Demonstration will ensure that Massachusetts continues to have the federal support necessary to maintain near-universal coverage, while at the same time carrying out ambitious reforms to its health care payment and delivery system.

The submitted Demonstration proposal has several key elements:

- Support for payment and delivery system reforms. The Demonstration provides \$1.8 billion of upfront investment through the Delivery System Reform Incentive Program (DSRIP), which will support providers as they transition to new delivery and payment systems. Notably, a significant portion of these investments will be focused on supporting community-based providers.
- Redesign of the Safety Net Care Pool (SNCP) to support investment in safety net hospitals. The October 2014 waiver extension agreement between CMS and the Commonwealth required the Commonwealth to develop a redesigned structure for the SNCP. The Demonstration accomplishes this goal, and will provide a new stream of

Safety Net Provider payments to eligible providers serving a very high proportion of Medicaid and uninsured patients. Over time, an increasing share of these payments will be linked to outcome measures, which will help ensure that these supplemental funding streams support an overall shift to accountable care.

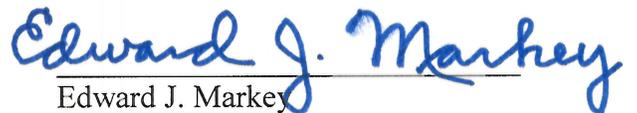
- Integration among physical health, behavioral health, long-term services and supports, and health-related social services. The Demonstration contains a strong focus on establishing a behavioral health system, including the formation of interdisciplinary care teams that can provide coordinated care for members with complex health needs.
- Enhanced services to address the opioid crisis. MassHealth has collaborated with the Department of Public Health's Bureau of Substance Abuse Services to develop the substance abuse disorder proposal contained in the Demonstration request. The Commonwealth proposes expanding coverage for substance abuse disorder services in order to improve access to treatment, including ongoing recovery-focused support. These are key steps in addressing Massachusetts's opioid epidemic.

The priorities reflected in the Demonstration waiver are the product of a year-long process of stakeholder engagement. We greatly appreciate your past support for the Massachusetts Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration and respectfully request that CMS work closely and efficiently with the Commonwealth to ensure that the Demonstration is approved swiftly. We look forward to continuing to support the Commonwealth as it works closely with CMS to implement its bold plans for restructuring the Massachusetts health care delivery system.

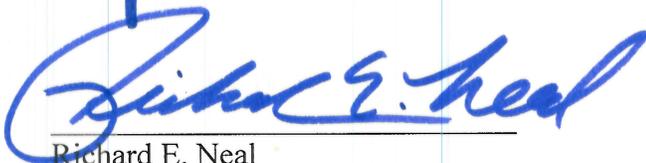
Sincerely,



Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator



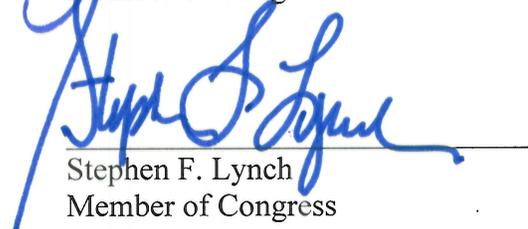
Richard E. Neal  
Member of Congress



James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



Michael E. Capuano  
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress

*Niki Tsongas*

Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress

*William R. Keating*

William R. Keating  
Member of Congress

*Joe Kennedy III*

Joseph P. Kennedy III  
Member of Congress

*Katherine M. Clark*

Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress

*Seth Moulton*

Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress