



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

January 22, 2019

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

Thank you for your December 21, 2018 letter informing the Office of MaineCare Services of your approval of the state's request for a section 1115 demonstration for MaineCare. I am writing to inform you that, after a careful review of the waivers in the 1115 demonstration and assessment of its potential impacts, I have directed my Acting Commissioner of Health and Human Services to not accept the terms you set forth.

While we appreciate the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' consideration, Maine's low unemployment rate, its widely dispersed population, and our lowest per capita income in New England make mandates – without appropriate supports like vocational training and specific exemptions for groups like people undergoing treatment – problematic. We believe that the likely result of this 1115 demonstration would leave more Maine people uninsured without improving their participation in the workforce.

Maine prefers instead to make employment and volunteer opportunities and training available to its low-income adult population to fully encourage work while providing access to the health care that is so vital to keeping people in the workforce. Additionally, Maine prefers not to increase administrative burden for medical providers and for the state that would result from a constant screening of patients' hours, categories, and types of community engagement. Instead, we should focus our resources on making the population healthy and work-ready to the fullest extent.

Maine believes that providing appropriate educational opportunities and vocational training, along with critical health care, is the most effective way to lift people out of poverty and into the workforce. To that end, I am directing the Acting Commissioners of the Maine Departments of Labor and Health and Human Services to make available vocational training and workforce supports to MaineCare participants at every opportunity, while increasing access to needed services that will keep them in the workforce. We will also coordinate with employers and the business community to enhance connections between them and participants who are able to work.

Again, thank you for your consideration. We look forward to working with you in the future on advancing access to health care services.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills
Governor