

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 8, 2019

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

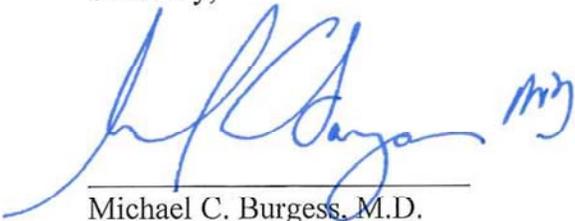
As the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) continues to examine innovative payment and delivery models in the Medicare program, we ask you to consider a model that improves competition and empowers patients in their treatment decisions. As hospital consolidation is both occurring at a rapid pace and resulting in higher costs for both beneficiaries and the Medicare program, initiatives at physician-owned hospitals are important in maintaining quality and access to health care for American patients.

Physician-owned hospitals (POHs) receive some of the highest ratings in Medicare's quality programs, which have resulted in improved care and outcomes for beneficiaries. Additionally, these hospitals are among the top scorers in the Medicare Hospital Readmissions Reductions program, generating savings for the Medicare program. Unfortunately, patient access to these hospitals is hampered by section 6001 of the Affordable Care Act, which prohibits most grandfathered POHs from expanding to serve additional Medicare beneficiaries. Given the high quality of care furnished by POHs and the ongoing issues with hospital consolidation, we think it would be beneficial to launch a CMMI demonstration that aims to expand patient access to these quality providers. Such a demonstration would be consistent with your efforts to reward providers "that deliver coordinated, quality care, at the best value."

We encourage you to design a POH-led demonstration that fosters patient engagement, tailored educational efforts, and other strategies to improve care quality and achieve other critical outcomes, such as reduced inappropriate opioid use. This complements CMS' efforts to empower patients in their treatment decisions.

We appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



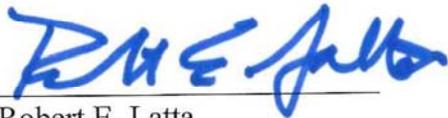
Roger W. Marshall, M.D.
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress



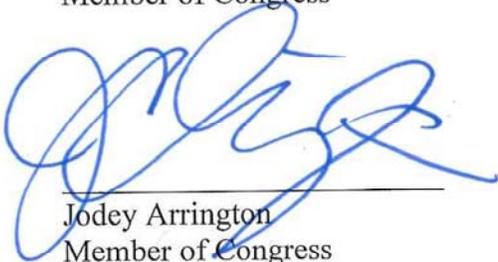
H. Morgan Griffith
Member of Congress



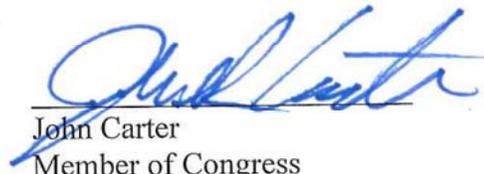
Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress



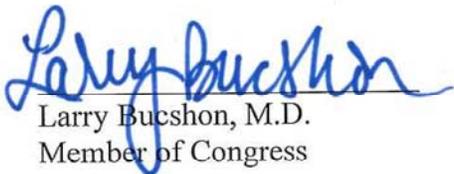
Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Jodey Arrington
Member of Congress



John Carter
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon, M.D.
Member of Congress



Bill Flores
Member of Congress



Jim Banks
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Trey Hollingsworth
Member of Congress



George Holding
Member of Congress



David Schweikert
Member of Congress



Mac Thornberry
Member of Congress



Mark Walker
Member of Congress



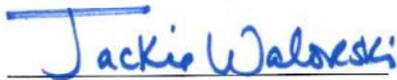
Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Jackie Walorski
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



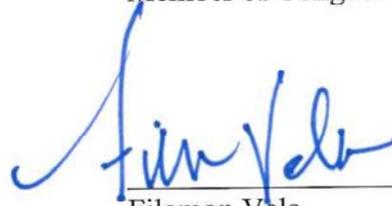
Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



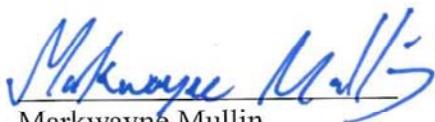
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress



Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Markwayne Mullin
Member of Congress



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress



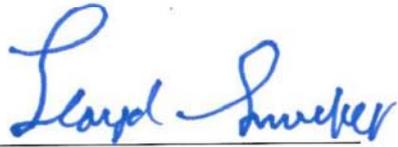
French Hill
Member of Congress



Roger Williams
Member of Congress



Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



Lloyd Smucker
Member of Congress



Mo Brooks
Member of Congress



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