



JUL 14 2014

*Administrator*  
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Fred Upton  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Upton:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about how CMS is addressing the backlog of Medicaid applications in some states and the transmission of certain application data to states from <https://www.HealthCare.gov>. Your letter requested details about the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' (CMS) considerations for pursuing administrative reductions in payments to states due to Medicaid application backlogs. CMS takes your concerns seriously.

The CMS has been working with all states to ensure timely processing of applications and access to coverage for eligible individuals. Many states are processing applications in a timely way, in many cases much more quickly than was done prior to the changes in policies and systems ushered in by the Affordable Care Act. Other states are experiencing backlogs in applications or enrollment. CMS has reached out to each of the states where a backlog has been identified. For one group of states, where the causes and scope of the backlog are known to CMS, we have asked the state to provide a mitigation plan for CMS's review describing how the state will address the backlog, typically through a combination of accelerating information technology solutions and manual workarounds. For a second group of states, where more information on the scope and causes of the backlog is needed, CMS is undertaking a review with the state on these matters, possibly also leading to a written mitigation plan. CMS has worked with states over the past year to develop and update mitigation plans whenever a state is not able to meet critical factors associated with implementation.

We believe that overall states' record in meeting implementation deadlines and, more significantly, extending coverage to eligible individuals has been very strong, as demonstrated by the enrollment, at the state level, of over six million individuals since the beginning of open enrollment. We are committed to working with every state to ensure that all eligible individuals are enrolled in Medicaid in a timely and efficient way.

If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the CMS Office of Legislation at 202-690-5960 if you have additional thoughts or concerns about these issues. I will also provide a copy of this response to the co-signers of your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marilyn Tavenner".

Marilyn Tavenner