

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 2021

The Honorable Daniel Tsai
The Deputy Administrator and Director
Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

RE: Urge Swift Approval of Florida Hospital Directed Payment Program

Dear Secretary Becerra, Administrator Brooks-LaSure, and Deputy Administrator and Director Tsai:

We write to urge the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to reauthorize Florida's hospital directed payment program (DPP) for the 2023 Medicaid managed care contract rating period (October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023). Florida is currently in its third year of participating in the DPP, which provides vital supplemental Medicaid funding to hospitals serving our most vulnerable neighbors. If this funding is not approved by the end of the fiscal year, it could result in serious delays or lapses in care for Floridians.

Approximately 5 million Floridians rely on Medicaid for health care coverage. It is a lifeline for our neighbors, serving as a safety net for children, pregnant women, low-income adults, and individuals with disabilities. As stated in our May letter, our districts contain over one-third of the state's Medicaid population. These communities and the hospitals that serve them would be disproportionately harmed by any delay in the approval of Florida's DPP.

CMS has approved Florida's DPP for the last two years, and there are few changes to the state's application for the third year. We understand that CMS is currently conducting a focused review regarding the state's use of revenue derived from its Local Provider Participation Fund (LPPF) as a source of Florida's non-federal share for the DPP. We fully support protecting the integrity of Florida Medicaid and protecting taxpayer dollars. While you undergo this review, we want to reiterate the invaluable role that safety net hospitals play in our community, and their reliance on federal funding.

We are rapidly approaching the end of the contract year on September 30, 2023. As that date nears, we are concerned that our hospitals will not be able to perform their current scope of services. We

respectfully request that CMS swiftly approve Florida's DPP for the 2023 Medicaid managed care contract rating period. We appreciate your timely attention to this issue, and we stand ready to work with you to ensure our constituents continue to have access to high-quality care.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



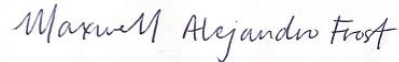
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Frederica S. Wilson
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Darren Soto
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jared Moskowitz
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Lois Frankel
MEMBER OF CONGRESS