



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Medical Assistance Services

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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Calder Lynch
Deputy Administrator and Acting Director
Center for Medicaid & CHIP Services
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Deputy Administrator Lynch:

Thank you for your ongoing partnership as we have worked with CMS toward approval of Virginia's Creating Opportunities for Medicaid Participants to Achieve Self-Sufficiency (COMPASS) Section 1115 waiver. As you know, in addition to seeking approval for several new demonstration features, our proposed demonstration extends important elements of Virginia's current Section 1115 waiver, including our successful Addiction and Recovery Treatment Services (ARTS) program, which provides essential substance use disorder benefits to residents of the Commonwealth, and coverage for former foster youth who moved to the Commonwealth after they aged out of foster care in other states.

I am writing to request that CMS act quickly to approve an extension of the ARTS and former foster youth demonstration programs, which are set to expire at the end of the year. At the same time, in light of recent changes in our state legislature, which have generated dynamic policy conversations with regard to the COMPASS waiver, we respectfully request that CMS delay finalizing the other proposed COMPASS provisions related to work and community engagement, premiums, and healthy behaviors that we continue to negotiate with CMS. Virginia's request to pause finalizing these provisions at this time also stems from our concern regarding the substantial effort and cost of implementation in the face of ongoing uncertainty, as experienced in several states, which may delay or derail these aspects of our demonstration.

Given the likelihood that the Governor and legislature will substantially modify these new waiver provisions in the coming months, the Governor has directed us to pause finalization of these Special Terms and Conditions (STCs) until we have clear policy direction from our State leadership and are able to resume negotiations with CMS. The Governor has also asked that we suspend our implementation planning for these new program features. Moving ahead with ARTS and former foster youth coverage by the end of the year will assure essential services are available to Virginians as we take time to refine the other COMPASS provisions early next year.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We hope to reach agreement with CMS quickly on this matter, well in advance of the expiration of our current waiver provisions on December 31.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen Kimsey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent loop at the end of the last name.

Karen Kimsey, MSW

cc: The Honorable Daniel Carey, M.D., Secretary of Health and Human Resources,
Commonwealth of Virginia
Marvin B. Figueroa, Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Resources,
Commonwealth of Virginia
Judith Cash, Director, State Demonstrations Group, CMCS
Margaret Kosherzenko, Health Insurance Specialist, CMS