



701 8th Street, NW
Suite 200
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202.434.0999
Fax: 202.737.6069
www.walmart.com

April 23, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

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

Secretary Azar and Administrator Verma:

Thank you for your leadership in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize the challenges faced by healthcare providers across the country and appreciate your efforts to ensure that the health care infrastructure in the United States is capable of providing quality, affordable and accessible testing and treatment to impacted Americans.

The *CARES Act* (P.L. No: 116-136) provided additional funding to the Public Health and Social Services Emergency Fund ("PHSSEF"). Subsequently, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) provided automatic and unsolicited financial support of approximately \$30 billion to eligible entities which received Medicare Fee-for-Service reimbursements in 2019.

Since the initiation of distribution of these funds, Walmart has received payments from HHS.

We recognize your automatic disbursement of funds through the additional CARES Act funding triggered payment. Respectfully, we would request detailed information on the process to decline the payments, as we will be returning these funds to HHS.

Additionally, Walmart and its affiliates request to be excluded from any and all future funds disbursements through the PHSSEF. Please let us know who at HHS and CMS we can work with to accommodate this request.

Walmart remains committed to working with federal, state, and local governments to provide quality, accessible, and affordable healthcare options to our customers. We appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Bruce C. Harris
Vice President, Federal Government Affairs
Walmart Inc.