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March 21, 2013

Marilyn Tavenner
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Room 310G
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Tavenner:

On October 26, 2012, CMS granted the State of Illinois approval of its new Medicaid Section 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver, "Illinois/Cook County Care" (project no. 11-W-00281/5) through December 31, 2013. "Illinois/Cook County Care" is a coordinated and limited managed care program for low-income, childless adults who do not otherwise qualify for Medicaid and utilize this county's public hospitals, and its community partners, for treatment and care.

Thousands of qualified individuals have applied for enrollment within this program and are being enrolled in medical homes. Although it is in its early stages, "Illinois/Cook County Care" will be successful in transforming our state's premier safety-net public hospital network into one that focuses upon preventative, proactive, patient-centered, and cost-effective care.

We are confident the Illinois General Assembly will pass legislation expanding Medicaid eligibility to conform to Affordable Care Act provisions. However, we must also ensure that our demonstration waiver permitting "Illinois/Cook County Care" will continue if, for any reason, our State is unable to fully implement Affordable Care Act expansion on January 1, 2014.

Pursuant to the "Illinois/Cook County Care" Special Terms and Conditions, Subject Area III. Paragraph 8(a), I formally notify your Department of our request for a demonstration extension for Illinois' Section 1115(a) Waiver through the complete implementation date of the Affordable Care Act within our state.

Illinois will spare no effort in seeking to achieve timely implementation by January 1, 2014. However, to protect the interests of the tens of thousands of persons who will be covered by "Illinois/Cook County Care" in December, 2013, prudence requires that an extension be approved as a contingency.

We appreciate your consideration of our request. Please do not hesitate to contact Theresa Eagleson in my office if you have any questions regarding our request.

Sincerely,



Julie Hamos
Director

Governor Pat Quinn
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