



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

February 5, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to express our strong support of H. Res. 826-- *Expressing disapproval of the Trump administration's harmful actions towards Medicaid*. This resolution is timely as it seeks to reverse the recent guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) titled *Healthy Adult Opportunity*, which would essentially cap or block grant funding for certain populations.

The Catholic Health Association's *Vision for U.S. Health Care* calls for health care to be available and accessible to everyone, paying special attention to poor and vulnerable individuals. Radically restructuring the Medicaid through this guidance fundamentally undermines coverage and quality for the millions who rely on the program. Federal Medicaid funding caps simply shift the cost burden onto local and state governments, providers and individual beneficiaries, ultimately leading to the loss of Medicaid coverage for millions of individuals. This is not the basis for a sound effort to improve the health of those in need but is instead a giant step backwards from the goal of accessible and affordable health care for all.

Over the years Congress has rejected legislative proposals in a bipartisan manner that seek to impose block grants or cap funding in the Medicaid program. Similarly, CHA sees the *Healthy Adult Opportunity* guidance as another plan that should be rejected by Congress. We strongly urge you to support House Resolution 826 when it comes for a floor vote this week.

As the Affordable Care Act celebrates a decade of being the law of the land, CHA hopes that Congress and the Administration find ways to expand and strengthen its provisions to ensure that our nation's most vulnerable have access to quality, affordable and justly financed health care. We stand ready to work with all members of Congress to improve the availability, coverage and quality of our health care system in ways that do not harm those who need our help and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO