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Andy Slavitt  
Acting Administrator  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20201

**Re: Montana Section 1115 Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Waiver**

Dear Acting Administrator Slavitt:

On behalf of the American Medical Association (AMA) and our physician and medical student members, I write to express the AMA's support for Montana's recently submitted Section 1115 Demonstration waiver proposal, the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP), which will expand Medicaid coverage to 70,000 uninsured Montanans. We believe that the HELP program is consistent with the goals and spirit of expanding health insurance coverage and eliminating the coverage gap for low-income adults and urge you to approve the waiver proposal.

The AMA believes everyone deserves quality health care. Medicaid is an important – and often the only – source of consistent care for low income individuals, and we support state efforts to participate in the Medicaid expansion under the ACA. As physicians, we know that health insurance coverage is essential to making sure people get the care they need to lead healthy, productive lives.

In addition, the AMA has long recognized the benefit of allowing states to experiment with new models for covering the uninsured and supports efforts, such as the HELP waiver, that give states the freedom to develop and test different models for covering the uninsured. We believe it is important that states be allowed to tailor expansion plans to best meet the needs and priorities of their low income adult population.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact Margaret Garikes, Vice President, Federal Affairs, with any questions at [margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org](mailto:margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org) or (202) 789-7409.

Sincerely,

James L. Madara, MD

cc: Montana Medical Association