



February 15, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510-6200

Dear Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

On behalf of the members of the Healthcare Leadership Council (HLC) – innovative companies from every sector of American healthcare – I am writing to support the nomination of Ms. Seema Verma to serve as administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). We believe Ms. Verma has clearly demonstrated the vision and leadership skills to craft programs that will improve the health of millions of Americans.

Ms. Verma has earned considerable respect for her work in developing the Healthy Indiana Plan for Medicaid beneficiaries in that state. HLC strongly supported that plan as it was being proposed to the Obama administration for a waiver that would allow its implementation, and we believe that it represents an important and innovative step forward in delivering healthcare to society's most vulnerable citizens.

The program Ms. Verma constructed departs from traditional Medicaid programs in that it has mechanisms to give beneficiaries greater personal engagement in their own healthcare and provides individuals a variety of private insurance options in order to drive greater value.

The results of her work in collaboration with then-Governor Mike Pence and the Indiana state legislature have been striking. A study by the Anthem, Inc. Public Policy Institute found that Indiana residents utilizing the Healthy Indiana Plus benefit plan, which requires a contribution based on income and offers a greater range of health services in addition to the required essential health benefits, elected to receive more preventive health screenings, were more likely to follow up on their initial care, and had lower emergency room utilization. This approach can lead to better health outcomes and more efficient utilization of health system resources.

As well, Ms. Verma has worked on Medicaid reform programs in other states and has an extensive health policy background as the head of her national policy consulting firm. Not only does she have the requisite expertise to lead CMS, but her body of work indicates that she will pursue actions that lead toward more empowered, engaged, and healthier Medicare and Medicaid populations. HLC members strongly recommend her confirmation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary R. Grealy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'M' and 'G'.

Mary R. Grealy
President