

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Blvd.
Baltimore, MD 21244

Ms. Lauren D. Reinertsen, M.P.A., Ph.D.
Associate Regional Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Northeast Division Survey & Certification
26 Federal Plaza, Room 37 – 130
New York, NY 10278-0063

Dear Administrator Verma and Associate Regional Administrator Reinertsen,

We write today in support of New Jersey's Section 1135 waiver application that was submitted on March 19, 2020 in response to the outbreak of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19). New Jersey is on the front lines of the national response and the increased flexibility of the 1135 waiver provides New Jersey the ability to mount a robust response to the outbreak.

A waiver under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to waive or modify certain Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) requirements to ensure that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of individuals affected by a national public health emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The New Jersey Department of Human Services (the Department) has determined that compliance with certain CMS requirements is not or will not be possible as COVID-19 outbreak escalates. The Department asks for flexibility during the emergency period to waive certain licensing, provider enrollment, allowance for FQHCs to provide telehealth services, and facility requirements. The State also requests approval of their CHIP disaster relief state plan amendment and additional flexibility in making Medicaid determinations and ensuring a robust provider network.

We appreciate your prompt attention on this critical matter and look forward to working with you and your department to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,



Robert Menendez
United State Senator



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress



Albio Sires
Member of Congress

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress



Mikie Sherill
Member of Congress



Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress



Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress



Andy Kim
Member of Congress

Jefferson Van Drew
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross
Member of Congress



Christopher H. Smith
Member of Congress