



May 8, 2019

The Honorable Bob Menendez
United States Senate
528 Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

On behalf of the New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA) and the more than 400 healthcare organizations that make up its membership, I write today to extend our sincere thanks for your sponsorship of the *State Allowance for a Variety of Exchanges (SAVE) Act*. The SAVE Act would provide funding to establish state-run health exchanges in states currently using the federal health insurance marketplace platform.

In 2018, premiums on state-based health insurance exchanges were 17 percent lower on average than those sold through the federally-facilitated marketplace. Enrollment in those states has also outpaced enrollment through the federal exchange, and states that have established their own platforms have been able to tailor their services to their residents' unique needs.

Although several states have expressed interest in revisiting the state-based exchange option, under current law federal funds are no longer available for states to establish state-based exchanges. The *SAVE Act* would provide states with an additional \$200 million in competitive federal grant funds to help them establish state-based Marketplaces. These grants are intended to ease the transition to state-based health insurance marketplaces for the 28 states – including New Jersey – currently using Healthcare.gov for marketplace enrollment. Should state policymakers choose to enact one, a state-based exchange would allow New Jersey to tailor its enrollment platform to New Jersey's specific needs and would allow the state to expand coverage to even more New Jerseyans.

NJHA remains committed to the pursuit of legislation and policies that benefit our member hospitals, our patients, and the communities we serve. On behalf of this diverse group of stakeholders, I want to express our appreciation to you for your efforts to build upon the successes of the Affordable Care Act and for taking steps to ensure that health care remains accessible and affordable for everyone in New Jersey.

Sincerely,

Cathleen D. Bennett
President and CEO