



February 8, 2019

Wil Ervin  
Senior Director, External Affairs  
Mississippi Division of Medicaid  
550 High Street  
Suite 1000  
Jackson, MS 39201

**Re: proposed Mississippi Medicaid Patient Advisory Council**

Dear Mr. Ervin:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the creation of a patient advisory council for Mississippi Medicaid. The undersigned organizations believe the proposed body would be a valuable source of insight into the enrollee experience in the Mississippi Medicaid program and allow patients to share their perspective in pursuit of improving the program for all enrollees.

Our advocacy organizations represent a diverse group of patients and consumers who share a united goal: to improve the lives and health of the Medicaid beneficiaries we serve by engaging policymakers to ensure that the Medicaid coverage remains affordable, accessible and adequate in Mississippi. As you

begin your work to establish this advisory council, we would like to share with you the following general recommendations.

Regarding membership in the council, we strongly recommend that the Division seek out individuals who:

- Represent a wide-variety of levels of experience with the program, as both new and long-time enrollees bring important perspectives;
- Represent the racial, ethnic, gender and geographic diversity of the Mississippi Medicaid population
- Are not afraid to express their concerns;
- Are able not only to report their own concerns but who can also collect and report the views of other low income individuals and families enrolled in the program; and
- Come from areas across the state, with their travel to meetings being reimbursed by the council or options for remote participation such as video or conference call provided.

In particular, we recommend that the council's members include individuals from the following communities, recognizing that MS Medicaid is a crucial source of care for many families and individuals within these communities:

- Parent caregivers who would be affected by the proposed work requirements waiver
- Foster parents of children covered by Medicaid, who are in the custody of child protective services
- Recipients living with chronic conditions such as diabetes or cardiovascular disease
- Recipients living with life-threatening, acute diseases or conditions, including cancer
- Recipients covered by the various managed care payers who can speak to that experience using the program, alongside recipients covered by traditional Medicaid
- Representatives of the patient and consumer advocacy community who can help provide policy and programming guidance, such as patient navigators or other consumer-facing resource

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the creation of a patient advisory council. Should you have any questions or wish to continue our discussion, please do not hesitate to contact Sarah Balog with The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society at [sarah.balog@lls.org](mailto:sarah.balog@lls.org) or 678-852-6383.

American Cancer Society – Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Cancer Support Community  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation

Global Healthy Living Foundation  
Hemophilia Foundation of America  
Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
March of Dimes  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Susan G. Komen Foundation