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## Patient Groups Express Strong Opposition to Medicaid Block Grants

### *Proposals for Block Grants or Per Capita Caps in Medicaid Would Harm Patients with Serious and Chronic Health Conditions*

WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 18, 2019)—Today, 27 patient groups submitted a [letter](#) to Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Administrator Seema Verma expressing strong opposition to policies that would allow states to apply for block grants or per capita caps for their Medicaid programs. The Administration’s “State Medicaid Director Letter: Medicaid Value and Accountability Demonstration Opportunity” is currently under review at the Office of Management and Budget. In addition, the groups released the following shared statement:

“As patient and consumer organizations, we represent and support millions of individuals facing serious, acute and chronic health conditions. Affordable and quality healthcare is essential for the health and lives of our patients, including many individuals who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare coverage. Our organizations are deeply concerned about potential guidance that would encourage, invite or allow states to apply for block grants or per capita caps for their Medicaid programs.

“Per capita caps and block grants are designed to reduce federal funding for Medicaid, forcing states to either make up the difference with their own funds or make cuts to their programs that would reduce access to care for the patients we represent. As the gap between the capped allotment and actual costs

of patient care increases over time, states will likely limit enrollment, reduce benefits, lower provider payments or increase cost-sharing for patients. States like Utah and Tennessee are already moving forward with deeply troubling proposals in anticipation of new federal guidance promoting these capped financing arrangements.

“Simply put, block grants and per capita caps will reduce access to quality and affordable healthcare for patients with serious and chronic health conditions and are therefore unacceptable to our organizations. We strongly oppose policies that would allow states to apply for block grants or per capita caps for their Medicaid programs.”

Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Diabetes Association  
American Heart Association  
American Liver Foundation  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
COPD Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Family Voices  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Leukemia and Lymphoma Society  
Lutheran Services in America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
United Way Worldwide

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