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March 17, 2020

Seema Verma, Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445-G
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Also submitted via email: Seema.verma@cms.hhs.gov

RE: Oklahoma Waiver Proposal

Dear Administrator Verma:

As you know, yesterday Oklahoma posted for public comment a Section 1115 demonstration project application to establish SoonerCare 2.0. It announced that it will hold the public hearings required by 42 C.F.R. § 431.408(a) on March 18 and March 24. The 30-day public comment period required by that provision will close on April 15.

Given the national emergency caused by the novel coronavirus, many members of the public will not have an opportunity to comment on the application. In addition, President Trump has advised that public gatherings of more than 10 people should not occur. This public health measure should not be ignored.

We ask that you contact the Governor of Oklahoma and ask him to immediately postpone the public hearings and extend the public comment period on the SoonerCare 2.0 application until after this national emergency has passed.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Jane Perkins
Legal Director