July
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, 2018

The Honorable Alex Azar The Honorable Seema Verma
Secretary Administrator
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Center for Medicaid and Medicare Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW 200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201 Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar and Administrator Verma:

Our 190 organizations are dedicated to improving the public’s health and collectively represent millions
of patients, consumers, providers, and healthcare centers across the country. We know that access to
comprehensive, affordable health coverage is necessary for individuals and families to address their
medical and mental health needs. Resources that help consumers understand and select healthcare
coverage are an essential component of any healthcare system.

We are therefore concerned by your department’s recent decision to drastically reduce funding for the
Navigator program and extend remaining funds to grantees who could steer beneficiaries toward non-ACA compliant insurance products. HHS has cut funding for outreach and enrollment activities by more
than 80 percent since 2016
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 leaving advocates and private partners to once again step up to fill the gap
left by this administration. We are frustrated by CMS’ assertions that the need for these services has
decreased as the number of uninsured or underinsured Americans continues to grow.
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Navigators and consumer assisters are critical to educating the public about their health insurance
options and helping individuals enroll in appropriate coverage. Navigators conduct outreach and must
provide fair, accurate, unbiased, and culturally appropriate information to individuals and families
regarding eligibility and enrollment requirements for the marketplaces and other state health insurance
programs. They are valuable allies to consumers seeking affordable coverage that meets their needs.
Many Navigators also provide in-person help to low-income and rural communities, consumers with
limited English proficiency, people with disabilities, and other populations for whom such assistance is
not often available.

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American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association on Health & Disability
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
American Medical Associatiom
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Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dup15q Alliance
DuPage Health Coalition
Easterseals Central Texas
Eating Disorders Coalition
EPIC Long Island
Epilepsy Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas
Epilepsy Foundation Eastern PA
Epilepsy Foundation Maryland
Epilepsy Foundation Nebraska
Epilepsy Foundation New England
Epilepsy Foundation Northwest
Epilepsy Foundation of Alabama
Epilepsy Foundation of Arizona
Epilepsy Foundation of Colorado
Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut, Inc.
Epilepsy Foundation of Delaware
Epilepsy Foundation of East TN
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Chicago
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Los Angeles
Epilepsy Foundation of Greater Southern Illinois
Epilepsy Foundation of Hawaii
Epilepsy Foundation of Indiana
Epilepsy Foundation of Kentuckiana
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
Epilepsy Foundation of Middle and West Tennessee
Epilepsy Foundation of Mississippi
Epilepsy Foundation of Missouri & Kansas
Epilepsy Foundation of Nevada
Epilepsy Foundation of Northeastern New York, Inc.
Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma
Epilepsy Foundation of Southeastern Tennessee
Epilepsy Foundation of Vermont
Epilepsy Foundation Southeastern Wisconsin

Global Healthy Living Foundation
Great Plains Tribal Chairmen's Health Board
Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc.
Health Reform Resource Project

NBIA Disorders Association
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
New England Bleeding Disorders Advocacy Coalition (NEBDAC)
New England Hemophilia Association
New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies, Inc.
New Jersey State Nurses Association
New York City Hemophilia Chapter
Northern Regional Bleeding Disorder Center
Oklahoma Policy Institute
Oklahoma Primary Care Association
Out2Enroll
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
People of Faith for Access to Medicines
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Public Health Solutions
Regional Asthma Management and Prevention (RAMP)
Religious Institute
RI Parent Information Network
Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition
SEAMAAC, Inc.
Snake River Hemophilia & Bleeding Disorders Association
Society for Public Health Education
Solve ME/CFS Initiative
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network
Susan G Komen
Texans Care for Children
Texas Parent to Parent
The AIDS Institute
The American Liver Foundation
The Kotick Network
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Trust for America's Health
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United Way Worldwide
Virginia Hemophilia Foundation
Washington University in St. Louis- Center for Treatment of Bleeding & Blood Clotting Disorders