



State Representatives
Allison Russo, Thomas West, Beth Liston

Director Maureen Corcoran
Ohio Department of Medicaid
50 West Town Street, Suite 400
Columbus, OH 43215

March 17, 2020

Dear Director Corcoran, Director Acton, and Governor DeWine

Thank you for your administration's leadership in fighting for the health of our citizens during the Coronavirus pandemic. The purpose of this letter is to request the State of Ohio to modify a number of Medicaid policies to help our state better handle the COVID-19 pandemic. As you know, Medicaid not only serves as a healthcare lifeline to many individuals, but also plays a significant role in Ohio's healthcare landscape.

We encourage the administration to ask the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) for a 1135 waiver to gain more flexibility around the administration of and coverage of Medicaid. Florida was the first state to gain approval of this waiver on March 17, 2020. A waiver would allow Ohio to expand Medicaid to higher income levels – 300% for children and 200% for adults. Additionally, it would allow more flexibility, including relaxation of service location requirements and eliminations of prior authorization in fee-for-service and managed care organizations.

Furthermore, we also ask that you suspend all Medicaid redeterminations and automatically extend coverage through the end of this emergency period for any existing renewal cases. We also ask that you decrease or eliminate any benefit limits which can inhibit social distancing, such as the number of home-delivered meals for at-risk populations. Now is not the time for Ohio's families to worry if they are going to lose Medicaid or other essential benefits.

Finally, we urge the administration to request that CMS limit or suspend any non-essential auditing and program integrity measures tied to eligibility, enrollment, and payment during this emergency. Ohio's ability to respond to this unprecedented event should not be hindered by existing program integrity measures and corrective action plans.

While we return to legislative session next week, please let us know how we can support you in any changes that are necessary. We are ready and willing to help. Thank you for your service during this difficult time.

Sincerely,



C. Allison Russo
State Representative
Ohio House District 24



Thomas West
State Representative
Ohio House District 49



Beth Liston
State Representative
Ohio House District 21