

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

July 28, 2014

The Honorable Marilyn Tavenner
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Tavenner:

We are writing to express our united and strong support for the *State Innovation Models Round Two Testing Grant* being submitted by our home state of Washington with full and fair consideration of their application consistent with all laws, rules and regulations. This grant application is the result of intense collaboration among multiple health, business and government stakeholders and offers a compelling opportunity for moving health innovation forward in our state.

As you are aware, Washington state has been, and continues to be, a national leader in healthcare from the state's health benefit Exchange, *Washington Healthplanfinder*, to its successful expansion of the Medicaid program, to its cutting edge work on implementing the delivery system reforms from the Medicare-Medicaid Financial Alignment Demonstrations, to implementing other reforms. The state of Washington has been a strong partner for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, in improving the delivery of health care in a more coordinated, high quality, and cost-effective approach. The plan for a Healthier Washington, leverages this work to better coordinate care using a person-centered approach to a fully integrated delivery of services.

The plan for a Healthier Washington (*Healthier Washington Plan*) takes a strategic and straight-forward approach to state collaboration and work towards a healthier Washington. Broad participation is key as we: (1) Improve how we pay for services, (2) Ensure health care focuses on the whole person by integrating the full spectrum of care services from physical and mental health, chemical dependency, and works to improve basic living needs; and (3) Build healthier communities through the collaborative regional approach to care. This approach not only is smart in its approach to care, it also works to provide better care that is more efficient and is projected to provide a return on investment of up to \$730 million in the first three to five years of implementation.

Healthier Washington Plan focuses on creating capacity and modest infrastructure to support enhanced cooperation. Caring for the state's most vulnerable; engaging individuals in their own health; addressing the needs of rural and underserved communities; and preventing illness,

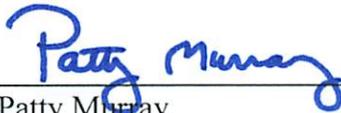
injury, and disease often demands coordinated planning and response among multiple private actors, various governments, public health, not-for-profit service providers, and philanthropy.

The collaborative and inclusive state Innovation Planning process recognized the importance of the contributions of and commitment from all state actors. If awarded, this testing grant offers a bold step for our state, towards a health care payment and delivery system that is more accountable, less fragmented and better connected to the community. Constraining health care cost growth is a pressing priority for both Washingtons, and we believe our state is prepared to make great strides in this area.

Washington state has long been a community of innovators and leaders in the field of health and science. Through implementation of this bold initiative and the assistance of this testing grant, Washington will be able to continue this tradition of leadership. We urge your strong consideration of this application and look forward to playing a role in its success.

If you have further questions, please contact Melanie Rainer of Senator Murray's staff at Melanie_Rainer@budget.senate.gov or (202) 224-0529. Thank you for your consideration of this letter on behalf of the Washington state delegation.

Sincerely,



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress



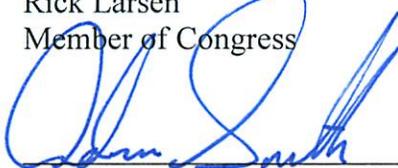
Derek Kilmer
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cc:

Cindy Mann, Deputy Administrator, Centers for Medicaid & CHIP
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