



March 20, 2013

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary of Health and Human Services
The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

On behalf of the Indiana Hospital Association, and our more than 160 member hospitals throughout Indiana, I urge you to grant the State of Indiana's request to renew the Medicaid waiver for the Healthy Indiana Plan (HIP) and for permission to use the program as the vehicle for coverage expansion. IHA supported the legislation that authorized HIP six years ago, and we, along with our member hospitals, remain firmly supportive of the program today.

HIP provides health care security to thousands of Hoosiers who would otherwise have no source of coverage. What is unique about HIP is the manner in which coverage is made available. We support the elements of HIP that encourage personal responsibility and initiative with respect to health care decision-making that would be beneficial to new enrollees.

Extending HIP is important, but we have a tremendous opportunity in Indiana to include hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers in a proven and responsible manner. Increasing income thresholds for Medicaid as outlined in the Affordable Care Act is critically important to Indiana hospitals and our patients. With safety-net hospitals in rural and urban areas having so much at stake, we support the State's desire for flexibility in using HIP as a way to provide health care coverage for more than 400,000 Hoosiers.

In conclusion, the IHA believes HIP has been a success and should be continued. It would provide an excellent platform for expanding coverage to all up to 133 percent of the federal poverty level. We urge you to make this a reality. Indiana will be well-served if HIP is soon renewed and extended to even more of our state's uninsured citizens.

Sincerely,

Douglas J. Leonard, FACHE
President

cc: Marilyn Tavenner, CMS Administrator



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Cindy Mann, CMS Deputy Administrator