

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 9, 2019

The Honorable Alex M. Azar, II
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

As bipartisan members of the Wisconsin delegation, we write to express our support for your Administration's efforts that seek to support and advance the delivery of quality, comprehensive, and coordinated health care. We are proud that our health systems and providers have long been at the cutting edge of high quality delivery system reforms that prioritize value-based care. In fact, Wisconsin consistently receives one of the highest performance scores from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), ranking as one of the top states across all quality measures.¹ However, we have heard from Wisconsin health care leaders that certain requirements and regulations have become increasing barriers to pursuing greater coordination and value for patients, and can result in significant provider burden and administrative costs. Thank you for exploring regulatory options to address these barriers and support high-quality care.

An important part of our state's success in achieving top quality patient care is that our providers and health systems work together to coordinate care—making sure patients receive the right care from the right provider at the right time and in the right setting. We are particularly supportive of efforts to reform the fee-for-service system and move to value-based care. However, our constituents repeatedly cite the complex regulations under the Anti-Kickback Statute and Physician Self-Referral Law (Stark Law) as main obstacles to further advancing these reforms. While Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs) and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) have the authority to reduce some of these legal barriers, these waivers are only temporary in duration, only apply to certain model participants, and can vary from model to model.


As such, we support your efforts in the Regulatory Sprint to Coordinated Care to examine these and other regulations created in a fee-for-service era and to understand how to modernize this regulatory framework for tomorrow's health care system while maintaining important beneficiary protections.

We stand ready to work with you and your Administration to support the delivery of value-based, coordinated care to Wisconsin beneficiaries.

Sincerely,



Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Ron Johnson
United States Senator



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Sean Duffy
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



Glenn Grothman
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
Member of Congress



Bryan Steil
Member of Congress