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Agency of Human Services

July 20, 2007

Jean Sheil, Director
Family and Children's Health Programs Group
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Center for Medicaid and State Operations
7500 Security Boulevard Room S2-01-17
South Building-Mail Stop S2-01-16
Baltimore, MD 21244-1850

Dear Jean:

I want to thank you for your time and cooperation related to the CMS review of Vermont's request to amend the Global Commitment to Health Demonstration in order to further our goals of making health care affordable and accessible.

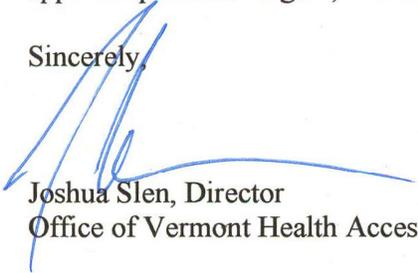
We understand that CMS is not in a position to approve Vermont's proposal as submitted, which sought funding authority under the Demonstration for individuals with household incomes up to 300 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). However, we understand that CMS is in a position to approve our request to fund coverage for individuals with household incomes up to 200 percent of the FPL.

As you are aware, Governor Douglas sent a letter to President Bush on July 17, 2007 indicating that Vermont intends to leave its 1115 waiver request open. This letter to you serves as written clarification that Vermont is seeking federal approval of its amendment request to implement the VHAP-ESI program and the ESI Premium Assistance/Catamount Health Assistance programs for individuals with household incomes up to 200 percent of the FPL. Vermont intends to implement these programs with an effective date of October 1, 2007.

We believe that our federal-state partnership serves as the foundation for Vermont's health care reform successes. We hope to build on these successes and request that we continue our discussions regarding Vermont's proposal to extend programs to individuals with households between 200 and 300 percent of the FPL.

Please let me know if there is any additional information I can provide in order to facilitate the approval process. Again, thank you for your attention to this very important program.

Sincerely,



Joshua Slen, Director
Office of Vermont Health Access