



December 14, 2020

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of the nation's Medicaid Directors, NAMD is writing to share two documents articulating Medicaid Directors' top priorities to address the COVID-19 pandemic and further strengthen the state/federal partnership at the core of Medicaid. The executive leadership of NAMD's Board of Directors stands ready to discuss these critical issues in detail to ensure the most effective COVID response possible upon the Biden Administration entering office.

NAMD is a bipartisan, nonprofit association representing the Medicaid Directors leading programs across the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the five U.S. territories. The Medicaid program is a critical component of the health care system, providing access to services and supports for over 72 million Americans, many of whom are the most vulnerable populations in the country. These include pregnant women and children, individuals living with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities, and individuals in need of substance use disorder treatment.

The Medicaid program is a key element of states' strategies to respond to COVID-19. Medicaid Directors and their teams have worked tirelessly since the onset of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency to ensure the safety of Medicaid members and support critical Medicaid providers during a period of significant uncertainty. This work is ongoing and only gaining in importance as we enter into a mass immunization effort.

The Biden Administration can enhance and strengthen Medicaid's response in discrete, actionable ways as soon as it enters office. Specific priority areas for action, which are described in detail in our attachments, include:

- Commitment to sustained and durable partnership with states.
- Support Medicaid in its role in COVID-19 vaccination efforts.
- Provide certainty around future COVID-19 Public Health Emergency declaration renewals.
- Work with states to advance equity in the Medicaid program.
- Provide guidance on expectations for states when the Public Health Emergency expires.
- Maintain current flexibilities around continuous enrollment during the Public Health Emergency.
- Address several near-term regulatory timelines and requirements that challenge state staff capacity during the pandemic.

We appreciate your consideration of these requests. Please do not hesitate to contact NAMD on any of these items. We look forward to a collaborative and productive relationship.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Salo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Matt Salo
NAMD Executive Director

ATTACHMENTS:

1. NAMD Priorities for Biden Transition
2. State-Federal Partnership Principles