



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

March 6, 2019

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

It was a pleasure meeting with you and Administrator Verma last week at the National Governors Association meeting. Thank you for taking the time to discuss several topics important to New Hampshire. I'm writing to follow up with you to review and emphasize some of those critical items.

As you work with President Trump to prepare the Administration's budget for Federal Fiscal Year 2020, I would once again stress the importance of prioritizing and funding the State Opioid Response (SOR) Grant.

We appreciate your efforts to improve the funding formula that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration uses in allocating SOR Grants to provide greater funding to states that are more directly impacted by the opioid crisis. These changes resulted in New Hampshire seeing a substantial increase in support through the SOR Grant.

We also appreciate the support that the Trump Administration has made available to states to combat the opioid crisis, including \$6 billion that was approved last year. New Hampshire has used the \$45.8 million in grant funding that the state received to create a new "hub and spoke" system of care for New Hampshire victims of the opioid crisis. A solution that we hope will serve as a model for other states around the country.

Although New Hampshire is one of the hardest hit states, we have made significant gains to ensure that we are the first state out of this epidemic but sustained investment is necessary to ensure long term success. This begins with including ongoing SOR grants in the Federal Fiscal Year 2020 budget to ensure that there is no interruption of support when current grant funding expires this fall.

I also appreciate the opportunity to discuss New Hampshire's efforts to re-procure our Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS). New Hampshire's MMIS is a highly advanced system that processes more than \$900 million in payments annually to more than 10,000 enrolled

Medicaid providers and hospitals on behalf of New Hampshire's Medicaid beneficiaries. On a daily basis, the system will process approximately 50,000 claims for New Hampshire residents, ensuring claims are processed and paid accurately and in a timely manner. This system is a critical part of New Hampshire's Medicaid system.

We again ask for flexibility for New Hampshire to move forward thoughtfully, but quickly, with re-procurement. Doing so will allow us to bring forward and implement a new MMIS system in a way that saves taxpayers from significant costs of having to repair and update the current system only to throw it away later. Further, we look for flexibility to partner with other states to jointly administer and share in the cost and the economics of scale of a new system.

Once again, I appreciate your and Administrator Verma's time and attention to the issues impacting New Hampshire and look forward to continuing to work with you.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor