



AUG - 2 2017

*Administrator*  
Washington, DC 20201

Ms. Caroline A. Lahrman  
President, VOR  
836 S. Arlington Heights Road #351  
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Dear Ms. Lahrman:

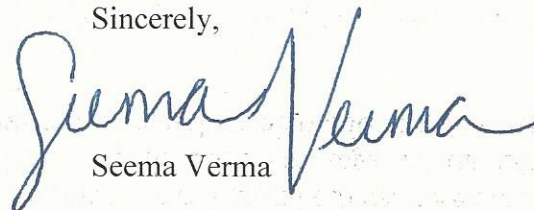
Thank you for your recent letter to Secretary Price advocating for high quality care and human rights of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has asked that I respond on his behalf. We appreciate hearing your perspective regarding individuals who receive services in Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities (ICF/IID) and how those individuals may be affected by the home and community-based services (HCBS) regulation and its criteria for a home and community-based setting.

Promoting community integration for older adults and people with disabilities and respecting Medicaid beneficiary's choices remain high priorities for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. In response to concerns and questions from states and stakeholders like you that represent Medicaid enrollees and their families, providers and others, we extended the transition period for states to demonstrate compliance with the HCBS settings criteria until March 17, 2022. This will allow CMS to minimize any potential for disruption as we undertake a comprehensive review of the regulation.

In the meantime, we are engaging with our state partners and Medicaid beneficiaries and their families to review the rule to ensure no unintended consequences. Your letter is helpful for informing this ongoing work. As you noted, states should be allowed to design innovative programs that reflect their dynamic health care landscape and accommodate the diversity of Medicaid beneficiaries' needs.

I appreciate your efforts on behalf of Medicaid beneficiaries. If you have additional questions regarding Medicaid long term services and supports in the community or institutional settings, please contact Michael Nardone, Director of the Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group, by email at [Michael.Nardone@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:Michael.Nardone@cms.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Seema Verma