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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2012

Marilyn Tavenner
Acting Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
Room 445-G, Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Ms. Tavenner:

I am writing to urge the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to promptly review the State of Ohio's 1115 Medicaid waiver application entitled "Ohio's Transformation of Healthcare for the Uninsured Demonstration Proposal."

For the more than 141,000 uninsured adults in Cuyahoga County, health care is fragmented and costly. As a result, uninsured individuals often receive the most basic health care in the most expensive care setting: an emergency department. Ohio's proposal seeks to provide quality, affordable care in a proper health care setting. Through a partnership with the State of Ohio and Cuyahoga County, this waiver can provide Medicaid coverage to more than 20,000 currently uninsured Cuyahoga County residents. It would allow MetroHealth System to better coordinate the health care it provides to these residents through its Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home (PCMH).

Through the PCMH, patients will have a care coordinator and a multi-disciplinary care team to ensure compliance with prescription and health regimens. Additionally, individuals who require behavioral and mental health services will – many for the first time – have access to a network of linked care providers.

MetroHealth is a model public hospital – it provides more than \$130 million in uncompensated care while consistently providing nationally recognized quality care. Approving Ohio's 1115 waiver application will enable Cuyahoga County to improve care for the uninsured and prepare for full implementation of the Affordable Care Act in 2014.

While Medicaid expansion is scheduled to begin on January 1, 2014, MetroHealth stands ready to begin its demonstration program on July 1, 2012. I urge CMS to conduct a full review of the proposal so as to permit implementation on July 1st.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senate