

GUS M. BILIRAKIS
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
COMMUNICATIONS AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
DIGITAL COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
VICE-CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0912

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
 2112 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912
(202) 225-5755
DISTRICT OFFICES:
 7132 LITTLE ROAD
NEW PORT RICHEY, FL 34654-5514
(727) 232-2921
 600 KLOSTERMAN ROAD
ROOM BB38
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689-1299
(727) 940-5860

August 21, 2018

The Honorable Seema Verma, Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850

Dear Administrator Verma:

As CMS reviews the proposed amendment to the state's 1115 Managed Medical Assistance (MMS) Waiver submitted by the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), I would like to share my significant concerns about one aspect of its proposal.

Specifically, it is worrisome that the requested changes to Medicaid Retroactive Eligibility for non-pregnant adults over the age of 21 will negatively impact vulnerable populations of Floridians, including: those experiencing a serious medical crisis, the disabled and seniors. My primary concern is that these individuals are often not able to proactively seek care to improve coordination of services as their needs frequently come as a result of unplanned/unanticipated medical events. ACHA's proposal would shorten the current three-month period during which an adult can apply, instead requiring the application within the calendar month during which the medical event occurred. This is particularly detrimental to those who, through no fault of their own, are involved in a life-altering event at the end of the month. Consider the hypothetical scenario in which an individual is involved in a life-threatening car accident on a Friday evening, which happens to transpire on the last day of the month. The individual would not be able to file for retroactive Medicaid coverage until the office is open the following Monday, which would be a new month. Under the current proposal, an individual in this circumstance would not be eligible for coverage, which certainly seems unfair. This is just one example of a potential unintended consequence should this proposal be approved.

I urge you to carefully examine this matter and consider the potential harmful implications for Florida's most vulnerable populations.

Respectfully,



Gus M. Bilirakis
Member of Congress