



October 31, 2014

Jeffrey A. Meyers  
Director, Intergovernmental Affairs  
NH Department of Health and Human Services  
Office of Medicaid Business and Policy, Legal and Policy Unit  
129 Pleasant Street-Thayer Building  
Concord, NH 03301-3857

Dear Mr. Meyers,

On behalf of the New Hampshire Hospital Association (NHHA) and our member hospitals, I am pleased to submit this comment letter in support of the Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver to implement the Premium Assistance Program that was established by the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan.

New Hampshire's hospitals are proud supporters of the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan to extend private health insurance coverage to more low-income, uninsured residents in New Hampshire and advocated vigorously for its adoption earlier this year. Hospitals see first-hand the challenges of caring for people who have no insurance. Without insurance and access to primary, preventive and ongoing chronic care management, these uninsured patients end up in a crisis and turn to their local hospital emergency room for care. Our hospitals proudly serve all of their patients without regard to their ability to pay, but we should be working to ensure patients get the right care, at the right time and in the right setting. Statewide, hospitals provided more than \$425 million in uncompensated care (valued at actual cost).

The Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver to implement the Premium Assistance Program (PAP) that was established by the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan (NHHPP) seeks to build on models approved by the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) in other parts of the country by allowing states to use federal Medicaid funds to purchase qualified health plans (QHPs) on the Marketplace in New Hampshire for those individuals with incomes below 138% of the federal poverty level (FPL). This builds on the other provisions of the NHHPP to provide coverage for these individuals below 138% of the FPL through the mandatory Health Insurance Premium Payment (HIPP) Program for those with cost-effective employer sponsored insurance, and the Bridge Program that will offer coverage through New Hampshire's existing managed care plans pending the approval of the PAP. As of today, these first two programs are covering over 20,000 individuals in New Hampshire who would otherwise have no access to health insurance coverage

New Hampshire's hospitals strongly support efforts to make the health care system better for our patients, who deserve to receive the right care, at the right place, at the right time, every time. Expanding private health insurance coverage is a major step forward for patients, families, providers, businesses and our state's economy. New Hampshire's Section 1115 Research and Demonstration Waiver Application puts us squarely on this path and we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to implement the PAP.

Thank you for the opportunity to share these comments with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Ahnen". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Steve Ahnen  
President