

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 10, 2019

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

We are writing to express our concerns about your plans to publish regulations to allow state Medicaid programs to drop coverage of non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT). The proposal, as published in the President's Fiscal Year 2019 and Fiscal Year 2020 budget requests and the most recent OMB unified agenda, makes no exception for any beneficiary, including dialysis and substance use disorder patients who require care multiple times each week and cannot access this care without transportation. In addition, NEMT in the State of Georgia transported patients nearly 60,000 times last year to the pharmacy to pick up prescriptions that are vital to their adherence to a plan of care.

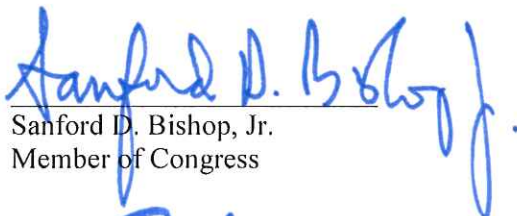
NEMT has been a mandatory benefit by regulation since the Medicaid program's inception in 1966. The regulation should not be rescinded before there is a careful examination of the impact on patients that need chronic care as well as the impact on children's access to preventive services.

We are working on a bi-partisan effort to slow down this change in NEMT policy. We co-sponsored a request to the House and Senate Appropriations Committees to limit CMS' appropriations to prevent publication of the regulation. The limitation is included in the House Fiscal Year 2020 Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill as reported by the full committee.


We support flexibility for states but not overturning a Medicaid policy in place for over fifty years without careful examination of the consequences for our most vulnerable beneficiaries.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,


Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress


Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress


Tom Graves
Member of Congress