MAX ROSE
11TH DISTRICT, NEW YORK

1529 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TELEPHONE: (202) 225-3371

STATEN ISLAND OFFICE:
265 NEW DORP LANE, SECOND FLOOR
STATEN ISLAND, NY 10306
TELEPHONE: (718) 667-3313

BROOKLYN OFFICE:
8203 3RD AVENUE
BROOKLYN, NY 11209

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3211

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
INTELLIGENCE AND COUNTERTERRORISM, *CHAIRMAN*
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Alex M. Azar II
Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar,

I'm writing today to strongly urge you to reverse the drastic and egregious decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to claw back $625 million in Delivery System Reform Incentive Payment (DSRIP) Program shared savings from New York medical providers. Frankly, it is difficult to understand where this decision to take back this awarded funding came about in the first place. As you know, these are not taxpayer dollars but rather are generated savings out of the estimated $17 billion dollars New York has saved Medicaid since 2015 and were awarded to New York back in 2014 for its Medicaid redesign. This redesign has been tremendously successful at saving the federal government several billion dollars while increasing access and quality for patients.

With millions of dollars taken back from the Staten Island Preforming Provider System (PPS), Richmond University Medical Center (RUMC), Staten Island University Hospital (SIUH) and Brooklyn providers serving my constituents, the hardworking men and women of Staten Island and South Brooklyn would suffer serious cuts to access. Our Staten Island institutions alone would lose a combined $24.5 million out of funding they were awarded in 2014 and were budgeting for and counting on – with Brooklyn's institutions losing tens of millions more. This decision was a total shock to our DSRIP recipients and my constituents. This decision will likely force the Staten Island PPS – which has been doing some of the most innovative work in the country to combat the opioid epidemic - to cease to exist by 2021. And it will severely harm the veterans, low-income families and children, seniors and chronically ill and disabled patients in my communities of Staten Island and Brooklyn and across New York who depend on Medicaid for their desperately-needed medical care.

The Staten Island PPS serves more than 180,000 Staten Island residents with Medicaid or who are uninsured. They have a network of about 75 partners, including hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, behavioral health providers, primary care offices, and community-based organizations. Their employment and job training programs have been great job creators while producing large government savings under this program. I could go on for several pages about the effectiveness

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

of our local PPS but just some of the tremendous results that the PPS, RUMC, and SIUH have achieved include:

- 36% reduction in overdose deaths
- 13,300 reduction in emergency department visits since 2015 for RUMC alone
- $8.6 million in medical inpatient savings and $3.4 million behavioral health inpatient savings
- Boosted average primary care visit rate for children to 93% and for adults to 84%
- Provided funding to train 40+ Community Health Workers, 20+ Care managers/health coaches, 90+ Certified Recovery Peer Advocates

Moreover, my Brooklyn constituents will be seriously harmed by this decision as Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn Bridges PPS and other Brooklyn health care providers would also lose out on tens of millions of dollars they were expecting. As we have clearly demonstrated this would be tremendously harmful to progress on issues I know you care deeply about including combatting the opioid crisis, cutting government spending, and creating jobs. If anything, we should be expanding DSRIP and Medicaid redesign not cutting it or ending local PPS programs like the Staten Island PPS. Let's be clear about what will happen if these cuts are not restored: someone on the cusp of recovery from their opioid addiction will lose access to the help they need and health care access could be restricted as we deal with a potential pandemic. We cannot afford to let this happen.

Thank you for your time and attention. I look forward to discussing how we can work together to reverse this claw back and continue this phenomenally successful program.

Sincerely,

Max Rose
Member of Congress