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Seema Verma, MPH
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

March 15, 2017

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Dear Ms. Verma:

On behalf of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), I am writing to congratulate you on your confirmation as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). NASUAD represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. Our members are responsible for the administration of a wide range of long-term services and supports (LTSS), including state-funded services, Older Americans Act programs, and Medicaid LTSS. NASUAD and our membership works closely with your agency, particularly with the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services and the Federal Coordinated Healthcare Office, to administer these important programs. NASUAD supports visionary state leadership, the advancement of state systems innovation and the development of national policies that support home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

We look forward to working with you in your new role. We are excited to work in partnership with a CMS Administrator that possesses such a strong background in the Medicaid program, including experience with LTSS-related issues in several states. We believe that there are opportunities for strengthening the partnerships between states and the federal government as we seek to improve supports and services for older adults, people with disabilities, and other individuals who require LTSS. We believe strongly in a collaborative relationship that provides flexibility for innovation at the state and local level. We are heartened by the comments you made during your confirmation hearings that recognize the important role of states in the administration of Medicaid and other health care programs, and are also thankful of the letter you issued yesterday outlining your priorities and providing states with opportunity for flexibility in Medicaid administration.

We request that you keep the following priorities at the forefront of the CMS policy during your service as the agency administrator:

- Support and expand grants and funding sources that promote home and community based services for older adults and persons with disabilities of all ages;

- Protect and preserve important LTSS and health promotion programs, including Money Follows the Person, Community First Choice, Health Homes, HCBS provided through 1115 and 1915(c) waivers, and State-plan HCBS; and
- Promote state flexibility and innovation regarding Medicaid, Medicare, and Long-term Services and Supports.

We are especially interested in collaborating with you and your agency regarding two significant policy areas referenced in the March 14th letter: the 2014 HCBS Final Rule and the Medicaid Managed Care Final Rule. Each of these regulations has significant ramifications for older adults, people with disabilities, and LTSS programs more broadly. We believe that both rules have beneficial components which should be preserved, but also believe that there are opportunities for improvement. We would be pleased to provide feedback and suggestions for ways to strengthen both rules in ways that promote state flexibility while ensuring that services and supports are protected for the populations we serve.

We again congratulate you on your confirmation to lead CMS, and look forward to our partnership as we strive to provide high quality, cost effective, and person-centered supports to older Americans and people with disabilities. Please feel free to reach out to our association at any time to discuss these important supports and services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha A. Roherty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Martha A. Roherty
Executive Director
NASUAD