

March 20, 2024

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

The Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) appreciates your steadfast commitment to addressing the ongoing impact of the Change Healthcare cyberattack. Your dedication to ensuring all Medicaid beneficiaries have access to the care they need, and all providers continue to have the resources to care for our nation's most vulnerable populations has been crucial in mitigating the effects of this cyberattack.

MHPA is the only national trade association solely focused on Medicaid, representing more than 152 managed care organizations (MCOs) serving more than 51 million Medicaid beneficiaries in 40 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. MHPA's members include both for-profit and non-profit, national, regional, as well as single-state health plans that compete in the Medicaid market. Our members take their responsibility of providing care to our nation's most vulnerable seriously. Upon learning of the cyberattack, our member health plans took immediate steps to ensure beneficiaries did not suffer unnecessary disruptions in their care. Our members are committed to making targeted advance payments, engaging in outreach to safety net providers, and offering ongoing support to provider partners switching to alternative payment and claims processing services.

We also understand that certain providers that serve a high percentage of people enrolled in Medicaid may need additional resources and we are committed to ensuring that these providers do not fall through the cracks. Accordingly, we have been working closely with our partners at the state level to identify and support the entire Medicaid provider infrastructure. We all agree that we must move quickly to get systems back to their full capacity to ensure that our most vulnerable providers do not suffer any further delays in payments while also ensuring that all systems meet existing federal and state Medicaid standards.

We understand better than anyone how important our safety net Medicaid providers are in ensuring the health and well-being of our nation's 80+ million people insured through Medicaid, including children, seniors, low-income adults, and disabled populations. These providers are critical partners in ensuring that vulnerable populations get the care they need. We will continue to work with you to ensure that there are measures in place to mitigate the effects of the attack, and to ensure that these providers have the resources they need to continue to play a critical role in ensuring access to care for our Medicaid insured.

As always, our mission remains to ensure that beneficiaries who rely on Medicaid have access to the care they need. Throughout the attack, we have prioritized their care and will continue to do so. We thank you for your leadership throughout this ordeal, and your active engagement with our state partners. We look forward to furthering our critical work with you to ensure that low-income Americans can continue to receive the care they need. Please feel free to reach out to Shannon Attanasio, SVP, Government Relations, Policy & Advocacy, sattanasio@mhpa.org with any questions or should you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "C98", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Craig A. Kennedy
President & CEO