

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK  
GOVERNOR



MIKE COONEY  
LT. GOVERNOR

March 26, 2020

Jackie Glaze  
CMS Acting Director,  
Medicaid and CHIP Operations Group Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
61 Forsythe St. SW Suite 4T20  
Atlanta, GA 30303-8909

Dear Ms. Glaze:

On January 31, 2020, in anticipation of the effects of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar declared a public health emergency pursuant to Section 319 of the Public Health Services Act. Secretary Azar's declarations were retroactively effective to January 27, 2020. On March 13, 2020, as authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, President Donald J. Trump declared a national emergency in response to the effects of the 2019-nCoV. On March 13, 2020, Secretary Azar issued his formal waiver approval authority under Section 1135.

As authorized under Section 1135 of the Social Security Act, Montana is respectfully requesting waivers of certain federal Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP and HIPAA to ensure that sufficient health care items and services are available to meet the needs of our state residents and providers. These waivers will give Montana the flexibility to implement changes, as needed, to address any urgent health care needs of our residents. Please note that Montana is implementing all of the blanket waivers announced by CMS on March 13, 2020, to the extent applicable. In addition, Montana expects its licensed providers will operate under all CMS blanket waivers announced by CMS on March 13, 2020. The purpose of this letter is to seek additional waivers for CMS approval. We request a retroactive effective date of January 27, 2020, for the requested Section 1135 waivers and flexibilities to coincide with the effective start date of the Public Health Emergency, as set forth in the President's March 13, 2020 declaration, unless otherwise specified.

We look forward to your consideration and approval of the requested waivers. We also appreciate your partnership and consideration if and when the State identifies additional flexibility requests not included in this letter; such additional requests will be outlined in a subsequent written request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve Bullock", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVE BULLOCK  
Governor