

Senator
John Marty

Senate
State of Minnesota

September 6, 2011

Richard Jensen
CMS

Dear Mr. Jensen:

I'm sorry that I was out of town and unable to participate in the August 2 conference call between your office and a number of Minnesotans regarding concerns about Minnesota's Prepaid Medical Assistance Program and renewal of the state's 1115 waiver.

Your willingness to continue hearing our concerns and addressing them is greatly appreciated. I share the concerns raised by those participating in the phone call and appreciate the follow up letter that they sent to you last week.

However, I have some more fundamental questions that I believe need addressing by CMS.

In my May 18th letter to Cynthia Mann (and the follow-up email to you that provided documentation for statements made in the letter), I urged CMS not to renew the waiver because the scope of the mismanagement of the PMAP program in Minnesota was so great, and the mismanagement has been occurring for so long, that it is unclear that the problem can be fixed.

I appreciate CMS' interest in getting better data and more transparency, but believe the problem is much more serious than that. The lack of accountability and the poor oversight of this "demonstration project" have resulted in less access to health care for many low income Minnesotans, and has wasted millions and millions of dollars in state and federal Medicaid funds.

Cynthia Mann acknowledged receipt of my earlier correspondence, but never responded to any of the specifics in the letter. Although the 1115 Waiver has been renewed, I would appreciate response to the following questions:

Do you think that I am wrong about Minnesota's Medicaid funds being mismanaged, or that I overstated the scope of that mismanagement? If so, which statements in my letter were inaccurate or overstated?

If my statements were accurate, I simply do not believe that the additional reporting in the waiver renewal is sufficient to ensure that this money will now be wisely spent.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John Marty

cc: Cynthia Mann

attachment: May 18th letter to CMS