

State of Connecticut
GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Council on Medical Assistance Program Oversight

Legislative Office Building, Room 3000, Hartford, CT 06106
* (860) 240-0321 * Info Line (860) 240-8329 * FAX (860) 240-5306 *

www.cga.ct.gov/med/

Dr. Mark Schaefer
Connecticut State Innovation Model
PO Box 1543
Hartford, CT 06144

January 10, 2018

Dear Dr. Schaefer,

As the chairs of the Medical Assistance Program Oversight Council (MAPOC), we wish to share some of our concerns on the Primary Care Payment Reform Report that is planned to be discussed during tomorrow's SIM Healthcare Innovation Steering Committee Meeting. We are specifically worried about how bundled payments could affect primary care practices that participate in the State's Medicaid program and serve our State's most vulnerable citizens.

Since the Affordable Care Act was passed, hundreds of additional physicians now serve individuals in Connecticut's HUSKY Health Program. While we are always looking to make improvements to the healthcare system, new initiatives, like bundled payments for services, could have adverse effects. This new payment methodology could lead to a reduction in providers willing to serve persons on Medicaid and create a gap in access to care and quality services.

Bundled payments are a new concept and relatively untested. It is not known how the new system would work in a State like Connecticut and how it would coincide with incentivized programs like PCMH and PCMH+. With all of the hard work Connecticut has put into building our Medicaid program, we cannot risk the wellbeing of our citizens.

Finally, we would like to ensure that any SIM initiatives that could have an impact on Medicaid are brought before the Care Management Committee of MAPOC before being voted on. While we ourselves are members of the Steering Committee, a diversified group with expertise in Medical Assistance, like MAPOC and its Care Management subcommittee, can appropriately provide stakeholder input and oversight to anything that relates to Medicaid; as is statutorily directed.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Council's Administrative Assistant, Rich Eighme, at (860) 240-0321.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Terry Gerrata.

Senator Terry Gerrata
Chair

Handwritten signature of Representative Cathy Abercrombie.

Representative Cathy Abercrombie
Chair