



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1 STATE HOUSE STATION  
AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

January 3 ,2019

Secretary Alex M. Azar II  
U.S. Department of Health and Human  
Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20001

Seema Verma, Administrator  
Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore ,MD 21244  
And via email: [seema.verma@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:seema.verma@cms.hhs.gov)

Dear Secretary Azar, Administrator Verma,

As you may know, in November 2017, the people of my State voted overwhelmingly to expand Medicaid, otherwise called MaineCare. They did so because they recognized the economic, health, and humanitarian benefits of Medicaid expansion: that it will help create jobs, strengthen our economy, support rural hospitals, and enable more than 70,000 people to gain lifesaving health insurance.

More than a year later, however, their will – the law – remains unfulfilled. I pledged to Maine people that, as Governor, I would advance Medicaid expansion on Day One of my Administration. To that end, today I signed an Executive Order directing that expansion happen as smoothly, as efficiently, and – importantly – as aggressively as possible.

Pursuant to this Order, the Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) today submitted amendments to State Plan Amendments (SPAs) for the expansion filed on September 4 and December 21, 2018 (18-006, 18-007, and 18-0031). DHHS also submitted responses to the questions CMS posed on November 30, 2018.

These amendments change the effective dates of the three relevant SPAs to be July 2, 2018. These amendments conform the SPAs to Maine State law, as enacted through a ballot initiative in 2017. These changes are also consistent with the orders of the Maine Superior Court, which ruled that the effective date for the expansion is July 2, 2018, and directed DHHS to file SPAs accordingly. We hope and expect CMS will promptly review and approve these SPAs as it has done for 35 other States and the District of Columbia.

As you know, approval of Medicaid State options is not contingent on the sources of State funding, and, even if it were, general revenue funding to initiate the expansion of Medicaid exists. Therefore, it is our responsibility to move Medicaid expansion forward. I am committed to working with the Legislature to ensure the sufficiency and ongoing funding for the expansion.

We stand ready to answer any questions, and thank you for your prompt consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Janet T. Mills". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Janet T. Mills  
Governor

cc: Richard R. McGreal, Associate Regional Administrator, CMS