



**FRESENIUS
MEDICAL CARE**

February 15, 2017

The Honorable Tom Price
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Price,

I am writing on behalf of Fresenius Medical Care to express our support for Alaska's Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver, to request the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to waive certain provisions of the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act (ACA). Section 1332 allows States to apply for an Innovation Waiver to creatively and effectively provide access to quality health care under the ACA. Access to health care is life-giving to the 400 Alaskans with End Stage Renal Disease (ESRD) who receive treatments at our outpatient dialysis facilities. Our chronic and complex population, with multiple comorbidities, requires adequate insurance choices and treatment available in their geographical areas. While most of our dialysis patients have Medicare or Medicaid as their primary insurance, there are some patients who are not eligible for either of these options or choose to enroll in an Individual plan for coverage prior to their eligibility and enrollment in Medicare.

We understand Alaska is seeking federal approval under section 36B of the Internal Revenue Code to provide pass-through federal funds for Advance Premium Tax Credits (APTC) to ensure the long-term stabilization and viability of Alaska's individual health insurance market. Insurance choice is important to our dialysis patients and has been decreasing each year to the point of only one company being available on the Individual market. Stabilizing the Alaska insurance marketplace will help maintain and increase the availability of Alaska's insurance marketplace plans.

We appreciate the legislature and your office's forethought to create this program. Thank you, and if you should need to contact me directly you may do so at 316-841-5245 or by email at wendy.schrag@fmc-na.com.

Sincerely,

Wendy Funk Schrag

Wendy Funk Schrag, LMSW, ACSW
Vice President State Government Affairs