



May 10, 2018

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chairman
Ways and Means Committee
U.S House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Hatch, Chairman Brady, Ranking Member Wyden, and Ranking Member Neal,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Research!America, the nation’s largest public education and advocacy alliance working to elevate medical and public health progress to a higher national priority, I am writing to respectfully request that the committees of jurisdiction reject the administration’s request to rescind \$800 million from the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI).

CMMI leverages health services and health economics research to pilot new healthcare financing and delivery models. By designing and testing potential improvements, CMMI is not only working to reduce the costs and increase the quality of federally-funded healthcare, it is securing the evidence needed to prevent costly, wholesale adoption of new financing and delivery models that ultimately do more harm than good.

CMMI was funded for a ten-year period, and is not subject to annual appropriations. The fact that the Center has not yet spent the \$800 million proposed for rescission should not be misconstrued as signaling that the funding cannot or will not be used to meet its intended purpose.

CMMI’s work has already delivered important returns to patients and taxpayers; for example, a recent pilot study “reality-checked” the savings potential associated with treating chronically ill patients in their home. The model CMMI tested saved \$25 million in Medicare costs during the first year. It is vastly in our nation’s interests to encourage more such research-verified healthcare approaches by sustaining the Center’s funding.

It is also important to take into account the iterative benefits of CMMI projects, since the improvements that derive from these projects will also positively impact patients outside the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

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We firmly believe that rescinding dollars from CMMI would be counterproductive, whether the goal is to responsibly reduce public, employer and out-of-pocket health spending or to ensure that patients across our nation are receiving the best possible care. Thank you for considering our views and for your commitment, as well as that of your respective staff members, to advancing the best interests of America and Americans. Please let me know if we can provide additional information or assist in any other way as you consider next steps on the rescissions package.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Woolley".

Mary Woolley