



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

February 7, 2014

TOM LATHAM
Iowa Congressman

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

I write regarding the proposed changes to the maximum out-of-pocket limit for pediatric dental services (CMS-9954-P, Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2015).

It is my understanding that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) contracted with NORC at the University of Chicago to analyze the impact of lowering both the medical and pediatric dental maximum out-of-pocket (MOOP) limit.

However, HHS's recently proposed rule pertaining to the maximum out-of-pocket limit for pediatric dental services disregards the conclusions of the NORC report. With this in mind, I request a detailed reasoning behind the decision to deviate from the HHS-commissioned study. Additionally, the proposed rule seems ill advised considering that it would go into effect before data from this first year of coverage in 2014 can be reviewed and the impacts of benefit design on premiums can be further investigated. I ask that you also provide me justification on that matter.

Oral health is integral to overall health, and children should not suffer from preventable dental problems. A robust competitive dental marketplace with affordable coverage options will ensure maximum participation in the pediatric dental benefit.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Tom Latham
Member of Congress

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