



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

January 07, 2022

The Honorable Patrick Page Cortez, President
Louisiana State Senate
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

The Honorable Clay Schexnayder, Speaker
Louisiana State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 94062, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9062

The Honorable Jerome Zeringue, Chairman
Louisiana State House of Representatives
House Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 4486, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4486

The Honorable Mack "Bodi" White, Chairman
Louisiana State Senate
Senate Finance Committee
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

The Honorable Larry Bagley, Chairman
House Health and Welfare Committee
Louisiana State House of Representatives
P.O. Box 44486, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4486

The Honorable Fred H. Mills, Jr., Chairman
Senate Health and Welfare Committee
Louisiana State Senate
P.O. Box 94183, Capitol Station
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9183

Dear President Cortez, Speaker Schexnayder, and Honorable Chairs:

Act 207 (Senate Bill No. 305 of the 2003 Regular Session) requires the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) to submit certain information on a semi-annual basis regarding the Medicaid buy-in program, the Medicaid Purchase Plan (MPP), to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and the House and Senate Health and Welfare committees. Louisiana Revised Statute 24:772 also requires that the report be submitted to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House.

These reports, prior to and including state fiscal year (SFY) 2018, included the estimated value of the state, federal and Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes paid by the program's participants. However, the Department discontinued collection of tax withholding data in November 2018 since tax data is not used for determination of Medicaid eligibility. It has come to my attention that due to the information not being readily available, reports were not submitted for SFY 2019, 2020, 2021. The Department has taken steps to correct this oversight and will estimate federal and state taxes paid based on the income of the recipients in order to submit reports annually going forward.

The attached reports for SFY 2019, 2020, 2021 and going forward also will provide the estimated cost of the program, the total annual gross income earned by MPP members, as well as the program's status and any recommendations for expanding MPP coverage.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to present information regarding the Medicaid Purchase Plan. Mr. Damiane Ricks with the Bureau of Health Services Financing/Medical Vendor Administration (Medicaid) is available to discuss this letter with you should you have any questions or comments. You may contact Mr. Ricks at (225) 342-9828 or by email at damiane.ricks@la.gov.

Sincerely,



Ruth Johnson
Undersecretary

RJ:PG:DR

cc: The Honorable Members of the House Health and Welfare Committee
The Honorable Members of the Senate Health and Welfare Committee
The Honorable Members of the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget
David R. Poynter Legislative Research Library