



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Office of the Secretary

Marilyn Tavenner  
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Cindy Mann  
Director, Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services  
7500 Security Boulevard  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Re: Louisiana State Plan Amendments 13-23, 13-25, and 13-28

Dear Ms. Tavenner and Ms. Mann:

I am writing in response to Ms. Tavenner's letter to Ruth Kennedy regarding CMS's disapproval of the above state plan amendments, and my phone call with Ms. Mann on Friday, May 2nd, regarding the same.

In the phone call, Ms. Mann advised that CMS was prepared to begin discussions with the State this week to determine alternative structures acceptable to CMS for reimbursing our private partner hospitals for critical services that they provide to Medicaid beneficiaries and the uninsured citizens of Louisiana. There is no higher priority for my Department, and I asked my staff to immediately reach out to CMS to begin these discussions. We await a response.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of settling on an alternative structure as quickly as possible so that the improvements that are underway in Louisiana as a result of the public-private partnerships can continue. We are prepared to dedicate all of our attention and time to resolving this issue expeditiously, and I appreciate the commitment that Ms. Mann has made to devote resources to assist Louisiana in this process.

Thank you in advance for the cooperation of CMS in working with Louisiana. Please let us know as soon as possible a date and time this week that works.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kathy Kliebert".

Kathy Kliebert  
Secretary, Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals