



December 18, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary of Health and Human Services
Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Janet Yellen
Secretary of the Treasury
Department of the Treasury
1500 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20201

Submitted via e-mail: stateinnovationwaivers@cms.hhs.gov

Dear Secretary Becerra and Secretary Yellen,

The New Hampshire Health Plan (NHHP) and the New Hampshire Insurance Department (NHID) are pleased to submit this letter of intent to apply for a five-year extension of the State's Section 1332 State Innovation Waiver, for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2030. Aside from extending the timeframe of the waiver, we do not plan to propose any major changes to our waiver in the extension application. As we do currently, and as outlined in our current waiver, we will continue to revisit and consider appropriate changes to the reinsurance parameters annually. The waiver will continue to adhere to the guardrails established by Section 1332.

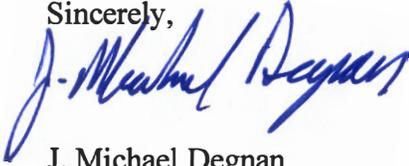
In 2019, the New Hampshire legislature passed House Bill 4, signed into law by Governor Chris Sununu to authorize the Insurance Commissioner, if supported by the recommendations of actuarial experts, to request that the NHHP Board of Directors develop a Plan of Operation to support the affordability and accessibility of health insurance in the state's individual market. The legislation required the state to submit a waiver application as needed to create a risk sharing or reinsurance mechanism for the individual market if supported by the findings of the actuarial experts. On August 5, 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services and Department of Treasury approved New Hampshire's application to waive the single risk pool requirement in the individual market under section 1312(c)(1) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in order to implement a state-based reinsurance program.

Following federal approval of the state's original 1332 waiver application, NHHP, in consultation with the NHID, implemented a state reinsurance program beginning January 1, 2021. The reinsurance program has been critical to stabilizing our individual health insurance market. Since implementation of the waiver, the state has experienced a 12.8% average annual premium savings for the Second-Lowest Cost Silver Plan. These lower rates have helped to drive increases in enrollment in the individual market, which has grown nearly 20% over the period of the waiver. New Hampshire has also maintained three carriers in the individual market.

State funding for the Reinsurance Program comes from an assessment of all health insurance carriers in the state.

A waiver extension will support New Hampshire's continued success in making health insurance more affordable and accessible. Thank you in advance for considering our application, which we intend to submit by Fall 2024. We look forward to engaging with you in the coming months.

Sincerely,



J. Michael Degnan
New Hampshire Health Plan



Commissioner David J. Bettencourt
New Hampshire Insurance Department

cc: Christopher Kennedy, NHHP Board Chair
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