

ONE HUNDRED FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115
Majority (202) 225-2927
Minority (202) 225-3641

March 11, 2016

Ms. Carolyn Yocom
Director
Health Care
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20548

Dear Ms. Yocom:

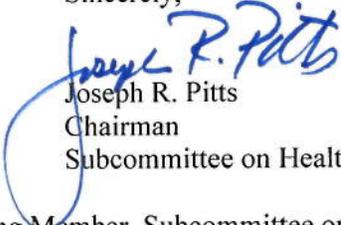
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Health on February 10, 2016, to testify at the hearing entitled "Examining Medicaid and CHIP's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on March 25, 2016. Your responses should be mailed to Graham Pittman, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to graham.pittman@mail.house.gov.

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,


Joseph R. Pitts
Chairman
Subcommittee on Health

cc: The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Health

Attachment

Attachment — Additional Questions for the Record

The Honorable Michael Burgess

1. GAO has said that PCI does not take into account differences among states in relative size or health care need of a population, such as the proportion of beneficiaries who are elderly or disabled. Would a system in which the amount of funding is based on the category or type of beneficiary be more equitable?
2. What are the effects of the current FMAP floor and ceiling on the equitable distribution of funds? For example, a 2003 report by GAO noted that two of the 11 states that then benefitted the most from the 50 percent “floor” receive matching rates that were 35 and 20 percentage points higher, respectively, than the rates they would receive based solely on their PCI.

The Honorable Leonard Lance

1. When there is a national economic downturn, which would also affect federal revenues, why does GAO think it preferable for the federal government to provide the increased funding rather than the states? How does this impact the Federal-State partnership?
2. The assistance provided under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act included “hold harmless” and “across the board” increases. Why are these not included in GAO’s formula?