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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-5200
March 15, 2019

The Honorable Governor Lolo M. Moliga
Office of the Governor
American Samoa Government
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Re: Medicaid Funding Cliff

Dear Governor Lolo:

Talofa and thank you for your letter on February 21st. This is tremendous lift and I appreciate your prayers and the support of your Medicaid Representative, Bettilou Taylor.

A solution to expiration of the Medicaid funds provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is at the top of my list of health priorities this year. To address the potential funding cliff, my office has been working with staff from the Senate Committee on Finance and the House Committee on Energy and Commerce to identify a legislative vehicle that would be appropriate for a Medicaid funding solution.

As we weigh the potential solutions to address the funding cliff, your assistance would be most helpful in program justification. Our records indicate a need of \$30 million to adequately fund our territory's Medicaid program. Any data you can provide to justify this figure would be greatly appreciated. Additionally, we ask that you provide examples of existing efforts ensure Medicaid program integrity, an area that will surely be debated in the Congress as a solution makes its way to the President's desk.

I am happy to report that H.R. 1354 (*Territories Health Act of 2019*) was introduced on February 25th. This bill addresses some of the systemic issues that made spending the Medicaid funding provided by the ACA difficult.

I am fully committed to finding a solution to the Medicaid funding cliff. My hope is that with your continued support, 2019 will be a year that brings many legislative victories for American Samoa, especially for our Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

Aumua Amata
Member of Congress