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May 16, 2019

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Secretary Azar and Administrator Verma:

On March 27, 2019, I led a letter, signed by 30 members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, including Chairman Frank Pallone, formally requesting that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) publicly disclose any and all documents, studies, and underlying data related to the effectiveness of marketing and outreach efforts for the *Affordable Care Act* (ACA).

To date, my office has not received a response to this request from HHS or CMS. Further, it does not appear that HHS or CMS has disclosed any of the requested documents either to the public or to the congressional committees of jurisdiction.

HHS and CMS have had over 50 days to respond to this request and provide these crucial documents to the public and/or Congress. The refusal to comply demonstrates an unwillingness to embrace the level of transparency the American people expect from their federal government. There are significant indicators to suggest that your agencies are withholding crucial information that could help Congress develop effective policy to reach our common goal of quality and affordable health insurance for all Americans. Worse, those same indicators suggest HHS and CMS are authorizing policy changes that are contradicted by third-party analyses launched by the agencies themselves.

While estimates vary, it is clear that marketing and outreach efforts created by the ACA could significantly improve the lives of tens of thousands of Americans. Many of these Americans are

simply unaware of the health insurance and financial assistance options available to them; HHS and CMS have the power and obligation to assist the public in understanding these options. Yet, both of these agencies abandoned that responsibility by cutting the funding for efforts to help Americans make better, informed decisions. Congress and the American people deserve an evidence-based rationale for decisions that have life-or-death consequences.

Consequently, I hereby request HHS and CMS to release the documents requested in my March 27, 2019, letter within 30 days of the date of this letter and without further delay.

Sincerely,



LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER
Member of Congress