

Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
May 23, 2019
10:00 a.m.

Oversight Hearing on
The Insular Areas Medicaid Cliff

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Ms. Esther L. Muna and Chief Executive Officer,
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Healthcare Corporation

1. If Congress finally treats the territories equitably and provides uncapped funding with federal match determined in the same way as states, what would the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands do to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to comprehensive services comparable to what states must provide?
 - a. With the additional federal funding, what specific investments could you make to improve eligibility and benefits over time?
2. What improvements in your health care infrastructure would be needed?
 - a. Would dedicated up-front funding be needed to make those changes?
3. Would provider payments have to be increased and to what extent?
4. Are there particular Medicaid eligibility, benefit or other requirements you wouldn't be able to meet within a reasonable time due to territory-specific limitations, and if so, what changes could the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands make to ensure residents get high quality health care in other ways that meets their needs?
5. Overall, what do you see as the necessary steps to better ensure access to quality, comprehensive care for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands residents and what would be a reasonable timeline to reach such a goal?

6. What will you have to cut if you go off the cliff?
7. What will be the impact on individuals and the health care delivery system in the territory, when Obamacare funding ends this year?

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Ms. Helen C. Sablan and Director, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands State Medicaid Agency

1. If Congress finally treats the territories equitably and provides uncapped funding with federal match determined in the same way as states, what would the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands do to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to comprehensive services comparable to what states must provide?
 - a. With the additional federal funding, what specific investments could you make to improve eligibility and benefits over time?
2. What improvements in your health care infrastructure would be needed?
 - a. Would dedicated up-front funding be needed to make those changes?
3. Would provider payments have to be increased and to what extent?
4. Are there particular Medicaid eligibility, benefit or other requirements you wouldn't be able to meet within a reasonable time due to territory-specific limitations, and if so, what changes could the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands make to ensure residents get high quality health care in other ways that meets their needs?
5. Overall, what do you see as the necessary steps to better ensure access to quality, comprehensive care for Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands residents and what would be a reasonable timeline to reach such a goal?

6. What will you have to cut if you go off the cliff?
7. What will be the impact on individuals and the health care delivery system in the territory, when Obamacare funding ends this year?

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Ms. Theresa Arcangel and Chief Administrator, Guam
Division of Public Welfare

1. If Congress finally treats the territories equitably and provides uncapped funding with federal match determined in the same way as states, what would Guam do to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to comprehensive services comparable to what states must provide?
 - a. With the additional federal funding, what specific investments could you make to improve eligibility and benefits over time?
2. What improvements in your health care infrastructure would be needed?
 - a. Would dedicated up-front funding be needed to make those changes?
3. Would provider payments have to be increased and to what extent?
4. Are there particular Medicaid eligibility, benefit or other requirements you wouldn't be able to meet within a reasonable time due to territory-specific limitations, and if so, what changes could Guam make to ensure residents get high quality health care in other ways that meets their needs?
5. Overall, what do you see as the necessary steps to better ensure access to quality, comprehensive care for Guam residents and what would be a reasonable timeline to reach such a goal?
6. What will you have to cut if you go off the cliff?
7. What will be the impact on individuals and the health care delivery system in the territory, when Obamacare funding ends this year?

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Ms. Michal Rhymer-Browne and Assistant Commissioner,
U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Human Services

1. If Congress finally treats the territories equitably and provides uncapped funding with federal match determined in the same way as states, what would the U.S. Virgin Islands do to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to comprehensive services comparable to what states must provide?
 - a. With the additional federal funding, what specific investments could you make to improve eligibility and benefits over time?
2. What improvements in your health care infrastructure would be needed?
 - a. Would dedicated up-front funding be needed to make those changes?
3. Would provider payments have to be increased and to what extent?
4. Are there particular Medicaid eligibility, benefit or other requirements you wouldn't be able to meet within a reasonable time due to territory-specific limitations, and if so, what changes could the U.S. Virgin Islands make to ensure residents get high quality health care in other ways that meets their needs?
5. Overall, what do you see as the necessary steps to better ensure access to quality, comprehensive care for U.S. Virgin Islands residents and what would be a reasonable timeline to reach such a goal?
6. What will you have to cut if you go off the cliff?
7. What will be the impact on individuals and the health care delivery system in the territory, when Obamacare funding ends this year?

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Ms. Sandra King Young and Medicaid Director, American Samoa Government

1. If Congress finally treats the territories equitably and provides uncapped funding with federal match determined in the same way as states, what would the American Samoan Government do to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to comprehensive services comparable to what states must provide?
 - a. With the additional federal funding, what specific investments could you make to improve eligibility and benefits over time?
2. What improvements in your health care infrastructure would be needed? Would dedicated up-front funding be needed to make those changes?
3. Would provider payments have to be increased and to what extent?
4. Are there particular Medicaid eligibility, benefit or other requirements you wouldn't be able to meet within a reasonable time due to territory-specific limitations, and if so, what changes could the American Samoa make to ensure residents get high quality health care in other ways that meets their needs?
5. Overall, what do you see as the necessary steps to better ensure access to quality, comprehensive care for American Samoan residents and what would be a reasonable timeline to reach such a goal?
6. What will you have to cut if you go off the cliff?
7. What will be the impact on individuals and the health care delivery system in the territory, when Obamacare funding ends this year?

Questions from Rep. Sablan for Ms. Angela Avilá and Executive Director, Puerto Rico State Health Insurance Administration

1. If Congress finally treats the territories equitably and provides uncapped funding with federal match determined in the same way as states, what would Puerto Rico do to ensure that Medicaid beneficiaries have access to comprehensive services comparable to what states must provide?
 - a. With the additional federal funding, what specific investments could you make to improve eligibility and benefits over time?
2. What improvements in your health care infrastructure would be needed?
 - a. Would dedicated up-front funding be needed to make those changes?
3. Would provider payments have to be increased and to what extent?
4. Are there particular Medicaid eligibility, benefit or other requirements you wouldn't be able to meet within a reasonable time due to territory-specific limitations, and if so, what changes could Puerto Rico make to ensure residents get high quality health care in other ways that meets their needs?
5. Overall, what do you see as the necessary steps to better ensure access to quality, comprehensive care for Puerto Rican residents and what would be a reasonable timeline to reach such a goal?
6. What will you have to cut if you go off the cliff?
7. What will be the impact on individuals and the health care delivery system in the territory, when Obamacare funding ends this year?