Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 17, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walden and Ranking Member Pallone:

We are writing to express our concern about legislation (H.R. 1394) that would allow states to eliminate Medicaid non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) for patients that are blind, elderly, or disabled.

As you may be aware, NEMT is an essential component of our nation's health care delivery system, especially in rural areas. According to a recent Kaiser study (see attached chart), over half of Medicaid transportation services are utilized by patients with the highest burden of chronic diseases, including those diagnosed with cancer, HIV, mental health and substance abuse disorders, and end-stage renal disease requiring kidney dialysis three times a week.

NEMT is utilized by roughly 10% of Medicaid enrollees and accounts for only 1% of total Medicaid spending. It is reserved for beneficiaries who have no other means of transportation to and from their medical appointments. State programs help to ensure the benefit is accessible only to those in need.

We believe that the elimination of NEMT would adversely impact both beneficiaries and state budgets. Studies have shown that the benefit has a significant return-on-investment as, over time, health care costs are reduced when patients have appropriate, non-emergency access to care. We would be grateful if you would oppose any attempt to eliminate or undermine Medicaid NEMT and hope that you would support the requirement for States to offer transportation to all Medicaid patients that have no other means to access health services.

Sincerely,
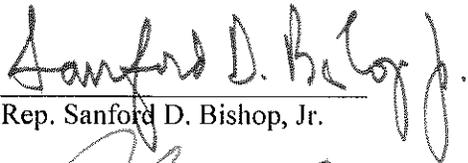
Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.

Rep. Jim Cooper

Rep. Charlie Crist

Rep. Henry Cuellar

(signature)

Rep. Vicente Gonzalez

(signature)

Rep. Josh Gottheimer

(signature)

Rep. Daniel Lipinski

(signature)

Rep. Tom O'Halleran

(signature)

Rep. Collin C. Peterson

(signature)

Rep. David Scott

(signature)
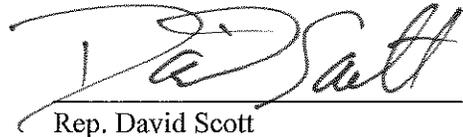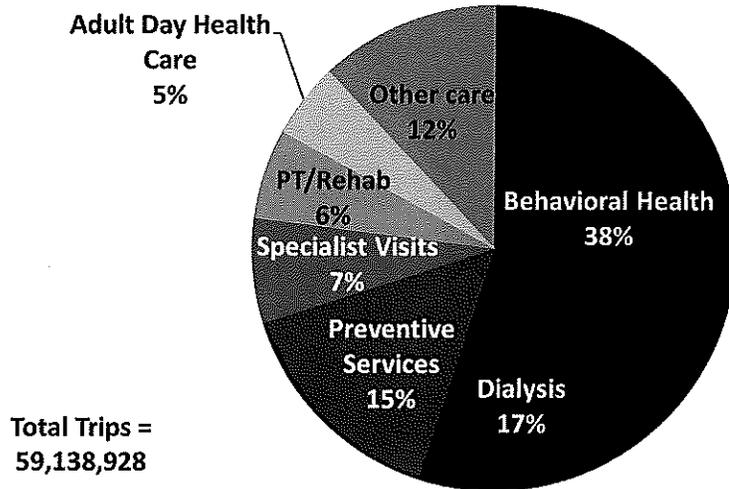
Rep. Kyrsten Sinema

Figure 1

Medicaid Non-Emergency Medical Transportation Trips in 32 States, by Treatment Type (Nov. 2015 year-to-date)

Adult Day Health Care 5%

Other care 12%

PT/Rehab 6%

Specialist Visits 7%

Behavioral Health 38%

Preventive Services 15%

Dialysis 17%

Total Trips = 59,138,928

THE HENRY J
KAISER
FAMILY
FOUNDATION