

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: please reject SB1092 waiver requests
Date: Sunday, March 12, 2017 2:56:44 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

My wife, Elena, is the legal guardian of her son, Eric, who is a recipient of AHCCCS. Eric has been receiving healthcare/social services thru Southwest Network for his severe mental illness (SMI) since 2011. He is currently one of those termed an “able-bodied” adult, although he can barely work at his part-time job due to the stress his SMI causes him. Elena applied to the SSA twice to obtain benefits for him and has been turned down both times. Eric will be 26 years old this April and will only have AHCCCS as a healthcare coverage. We won’t be able to afford the cost of his medications or wraparound treatment plan, transportation, counseling, etc., if Eric's AHCCCS benefits were reduced or eliminated. In addition, the medications that Eric takes to control the symptoms of his SMI place him in danger of getting diabetes, high cholesterol and other conditions that have to be treated through regular medical care.

Please reject the remaining waiver requests that are part of the Section 1115 Waiver Amendment to the Arizona SB1092. These requests undermine access to care critically needed by SMI patients and do not support the objective of AHCCCS. The waivers in this amendment place SMI patients in danger of relapse, thus costing more in emergency health care and other long-term costs.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 6, 2017 6:07:23 PM
Importance: High

To Whom it May Concern:

Women and children will die without AHCCCS. Many poor women cannot afford child care while at work. Most employers do not provide child care for free. Many women are educationally and economically disadvantaged.

Most med do not deal with these issues. Women in poverty grossly out number men.

If you don't have your health, you can't do anything. Preventive care is vital.

**PLEASE DON'T PUT THESE UNREASONABLE RESTRICTIONS ON ARIZONA'S
MEDICAID!!!!!!**

Thank you for your time and consideration in reading this.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal.
Date: Monday, March 6, 2017 1:06:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

I am concerned by some of the provisions listed as part of the Senate Board 1092 directive (Arizona Section 1115 Waiver Amendment Request) *raise significant concerns due to the potential for reduced access to essential healthcare services, difficulty in interpretation and increased burden on an already stretched healthcare system.*

At the forefront - able bodied adult is ambiguous at best. There is no clear definition in the waiver nor in medical literature/practice as to the representation of an able-bodied adult. For mental health care providers, who would need to make this determination clinically, this term can be especially contentious and confusing.

At present, we face a significant physician shortage throughout Arizona. This shortage affects not only mental healthcare but the whole of medicine. Now, this purposed increased burden on healthcare providers to regularly certify this uncertain condition of *able-bodied-ness* would likely tax a system already struggling to meet the clinical needs of the community.

The proposed 5-year lifetime limits and work requirements could reduce access to essential and preventative healthcare services. The lifetime limits are more likely to affect the older adult population who have greater care needs, but may have exhausted their permitted 5 years. Frequently we as mental health providers see Medicaid beneficiaries who may be working but are unable to generate an income greater than the defined federal poverty line.

Mandating co-pays although can be beneficial in eliciting greater engagement in care, can also limit the ability to access healthcare in a timely manner for individuals on a limited income. The predictable outcome of this reduced access is an inadvertent delay in seeking care, leading to an increase in severity/morbidity of illness and an upsurge in the use of emergency and acute care services [thereby defeating the very basis for these purposed changes]. Furthermore, monthly verification of income and work requirements are likely to increase the administrative burden for the state and also encumber beneficiaries who already may be struggling to meet their daily needs. The recipients of Arizona Medicaid who would be greatly impacted by the proposed changes are the working poor who already face challenges in allocating their limited financial resources to food, shelter, clothing, transport and healthcare.

In families where there is one earning member but multiple dependents over the age of 6 (hence do not meet any of the exceptions), being asked to pay even a small percentage of the limited income (as co-pays) can have grave financial impact. The time that would be required to complete the paperwork for monthly reporting would take time away from earning an income. There also does not appear to be any clause that addresses healthcare coverage or assessment of able-bodied-ness for primary caregivers who may be unable to work due to care needs of a loved one. The possibility that more families would lose access to care due to the stringent and burdensome reporting requirements is highly probable. Predictably, there is likely to be an even greater motivation to apply for disability, directly negating the important goal of reducing reliance on public assistance.

Implementation of the proposal will result in an increased number of people without regular and adequate access to healthcare. Although initially the projections may appear positive from some co-pay collections, in the long run this will cost the state of Arizona more due to poor health outcomes, increased levels of disability, burden on healthcare providers and significant fiscal burden of acute care services.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 7:48:28 AM

Dear Director Betlach, Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education. Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 12:07:28 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

I am a current employee for Mercy Maricopa Integrated Care. My background is in Social Work and I'm a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, specializing in adult mental health. Having worked for CPS out of college and then in private psychiatric hospitals, I have a unique perspective regarding Arizona's systems of care.

Having seen ample inefficiencies in the CPS system, my opinions and clinical outlook had shifted from the ideological views that are common of sheltered college students. After working with AHCCCS patients since 2010 at the psychiatric hospital setting, it is clear to me that there is no personal accountability in our AHCCCS system.

I now perform insurance authorization for inpatient behavioral health for MMIC. We are a hard working division, but we fight a daily losing battle due to overarching policy and systems issues. People use the hospital as shelter, as much as we assess for medical necessity criteria.

I don't find the proposed changes by the legislature draconian in nature, as my experience has been that the sentiment of our members is that something is owed to them and there's little 'buy in' from them. Health insurance is not a human right, but a service provided by government and tax payers, which often times precludes our AHCCCS members.

I support members having to pay co-pays, and additional ways to shape behavior. I think monthly employment verification is too steep and unmanageable to enforce. People will be tracking forms instead of tracking progress of members. I'm specifically thinking of SMI members who often times struggle to comply to their treatment plans and medications.

I think 6 months would be more realistic, as it would be very problematic for members to be off and on for coverage if they are penalized with suspensions. Retro reviews take time, money, and resources on everyone's end. I also think people could be made or incentivized to take classes regarding what their benefits include and do not include, preventative health, and management of chronic illness.

I encourage you to reach out to MMIC and Mercy Care workers and service providers for feedback. We are a wealth of knowledge regarding the pros and cons of our AHCCCS system.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public comment for AHCCCS waiver proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:57:37 PM

Hello,

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed waiver for AHCCCS. The proposal follows SB1092's plan to limit Medicaid in Arizona to a 5-year lifetime limit, and to impose a work requirement on "able-bodied" individuals.

These types of proposals usually create more cracks for people to fall through because they are oversimplified approaches. For instance, what constitutes "able-bodied"? Is it just someone who is not disabled? What about people who are too sick to work, but not sick enough for disability? How will this population be defined? What will be done for those who will lose their eligibility under this proposal?

The 5 year lifetime limit defeats the purpose of having a safety net, which is to be there whenever someone needs it (even if they've already had to use it before).

Federally, Medicaid has never had a work requirement nor a lifetime limit. I do not see why it is appropriate to grant Arizona this waiver for policies that are not in effect in any other state.

I urge the federal government to reject this proposal and leave Arizona's Medicaid program the way it is.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:30:10 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:25:37 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 9:43:39 PM

Dear Director Betlach, Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education. Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:38:41 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am another concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:52:07 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 5:16:53 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Section 1115 Waiver
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:57:25 PM

As a resident of Scottsdale, a business woman, caring citizen and volunteer at many nonprofits for several years, I am appalled by the SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal.

If I had known what a non-caring, uneducated group of legislators who are running this state, I would never have moved here.

Your proposal is from another era and so absolutely ridiculous, I don't know where to begin.

My daughter is a single mother of an 11-year old daughter with mental health issues. The father left with no notice, no child support and no relationship with his daughter. He married a wealthy woman and has left my daughter with all the repercussions. She has anxiety issues that have become much worse each year with the problems of her daughter and the daunting task of doing it all alone.

Anxiety can become out of control at times. Depression follows suit, naturally. Any semi-intelligent human being can figure out how many people suffer from mental health issues—from social anxiety to workplace anxiety to bi-polar issues to ADHD issues to food-related issues—all the way to schizophrenia—and suicide. Surely those in charge at AHCCCS read, and can figure this out.

Why is Arizona the 50th state in the country when it comes to support and facilities for those with mental health issues? Wake up folks. You're creating a non-caring, uncivilized and heartless community of people who are in dire need of many MORE services and help. NOT FEWER!

I'M ASHAMED OF THIS PROPOSAL AND THE PEOPLE WHO DREAMED THIS UP AT THE ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid proposed waiver
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:45:32 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

I am writing to you as a small business owner and a health care provider. My business partner and I run a private outpatient pediatric therapy clinic in Pima County. Approximately 40% of our families receive their health insurance through AHCCCS. As I understand this waiver will not coverage for children, however, if this waiver were to be put into place, the numerous parents of children with developmental delays will no longer be able to qualify for services, will have to work in order to qualify for health care, or will go insured, all of which will directly effect their children and our clients. We serve medically fragile children with complex medical needs requiring multiple medical visits a week, and significant care at home. For many families, especially with out those with means to hire outside help, this means at least one family can not work in order to care for the child. This waiver would effect these parents ability to care for their children.

The waiver would also impact our business practice as families will no longer be able to bring their children to clinic to receive therapy, which would force us to reduce our staff and would significantly impact our ability to serve this community.

Thank you for your time in reading my concerns.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 4:44:46 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:40:10 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Fwd: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:21:23 PM

> Dear Director Betlach,

>

> Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

>

> While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults and for those grandparents and other relatives caring for minor children who are not involved with the state DCS system. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

>

> Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

>

> Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all.

>

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 3:20:12 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults and for those grandparents and other relatives caring for minor children who are not involved with the state DCS system. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:21:08 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a mother of a son who receives Medicaid benefits, citizen, and employee of a nonprofit organization, I believe that the state Medicaid program must continue to provide broad coverage because it affects Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I am very concerned about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that Medicaid provides a critical service to low-income individuals.

I do not believe in punishment for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines. It penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering my concerns, the concerns of my family, and those of the people my organization serves. I know you will direct our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public Comment on SB1092 Medicaid Waiver Amendment Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:14:02 PM

I am shocked and dismayed by this amendment proposal and unalterably opposed to it. Have we learned nothing from decades of "welfare reform" experiments that show that instituting work requirements succeed only in people losing their eligibility for benefits, not in actually increasing job placement in living-wage jobs that actually provide the benefits they lose by having those jobs.

In addition, the proposed 5-year time limitation on benefits is a particularly ugly statement on the "disposability" of vulnerable people who need this coverage, regardless of the amount of time on benefits. This is a thinly veiled attack on the poor in order to provide more tax breaks to the wealthy and corporations. It is venal and malicious,

Poor people are not lazy; some people cannot work and still need benefits; most people cannot find living-wage jobs with adequate benefits in this lackluster, neoliberal economy; they need a proposal that helps and supports them, not punishes them. I urge you to drop the 5-year limitation proposal entirely. I urge you to substitute robust job training and support activities for the proven ineffective "work requirements" proposal.

Thank you for accepting my comment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid program
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 2:11:43 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a social services director who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:56:10 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public Comment, Medicaid Waiver
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:51:31 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned social worker who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. I have seen this fluctuate over the years as medicaid has expanded.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:50:41 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Please don't target the poor
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:49:19 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: proposed Medicaid waiver
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:43:14 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:40:07 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:38:50 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid Waiver
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 1:31:37 PM

February 14th , 2017

Mr. Tom Betlach, Director of AHCCCS
801 E. Jefferson St. MD 4100
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

Dear Director Betlach:

As a peer and family member I would appreciate the opportunity to comment on the current Medicaid Section 1115 waiver. AHCCCS has done some admirable work in this community and I would like to see this continue. I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

I’m very fortunate to have a part time job in the mental health field. When I cycle through symptomatic mental health episodes, where I am no longer 'able-bodied', my employer understands what I'm going through, and they're very patient with me. Working and worrying about when the next episode might happen, would only add to my stress, and make my 'able-bodied status even more tenuous. The unconditional love of my dog is a big part of my own recovery and I know many people, that I believe, would benefit from this companionship, especially when they have a family that lacks understanding, and withdraws from offering any kind of emotional support. However, many are afraid of the responsibility of even caring for a dog in the event that they become symptomatic and unable to take care of the dog.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. I also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. We know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

If I had to live in constant fear of losing my job and benefits and worrying about where I was going to eat, sleep or get medical care, because of my illness, my anxiety would be through the roof, and I would be suicidal. Living with this constant fear of losing everything, would make it even harder to maintain my recovery and 'able-bodied' status. Fortunately, I have Social Security and Retirement to carry me through these times, but people on AHCCCS don't have a safety net. I know these things, because I have facilitated a peer support group for 6+ years, and most of the people in the group are on AHCCCS. I've seen people who are stable on their meds, relapse when confronted with reevaluation of their status by Social Security or AHCCCS.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied adults.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

Personally, I've had episodes that remind me that I'm never going to be cured. I don't understand how someone can say that I'll be cured in 5 years.. No one says that about my cancer diagnosis.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:55:19 PM

February 24, 2017

Thomas J. Betlach MPA, Director
Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 E. Jefferson St., MD 4100
Phoenix, AZ 850

RE: Section 1115 Waiver Renewal

Dear Director Betlach:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 1115 Waiver. AHCCCS has been a model of access to care, cost containment, and quality care. These proposed changes will take the state and its citizens back to a time when those marginalized through low wages and lack of employer provided care, risk less access to care and ultimately increase costs the state pays for delayed care.

Work Requirement

We know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more unattainable. Many people are able to work because they can keep chronic and mental health conditions under control through AHCCCS coverage.

Lifetime Limits and Disenrollment

Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on low-income people runs counter to research on mental health recovery and chronic disease management. Moreover, many low-income adults eligible for AHCCCS are working, but do not have access to job-based coverage. Cutting them off after five years would expose them to poor health outcomes and medical debt, which entrench the cycle of poverty in our state.

Monthly Reporting

The requirement to report monthly seems burdensome and expensive for the state to implement.

Limiting access to health care through work requirements, onerous reporting, and time limits decreases access to preventive care that in the long-run will only cost the state additional funding and result in a workforce of families more vulnerable to chronic disease and suffering.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 12:17:38 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)

I oppose SB 1092 as it contains too many unattainable provisions and requirements that many recipients, though in need, will find very difficult to fulfill.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Stop the AMENDMENT to SB1092
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 11:08:48 AM

I wish to express my concerns about the proposed AMENDMENT to SB 1092. The most vulnerable in Arizona are afflicted and diagnosed with disabilities and cannot endure any constant harassment from our state legislatures. I stand behind the letter from Arizona Public Health who eloquently stated their opposition to the AMENDMENT to SB 1092.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 10:41:24 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Loss of Medicaid services
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 8:02:43 AM

To whom it may concern;

I would ask that you do not change the eligibility requirements for “able bodied adults” receiving AHCCCS in Arizona. This would directly diminish the protections of the ACA.

I disagree with these requirement changes because:

- they diminish healthcare protections in place
- many recipients suffer from mental health issues that would not fall under the category of “able bodied”
- a majority of Americans support keeping the Medicaid protections gained under the ACA in place

Thank you for your attention. I urge you not to approve the waiver of these requirements for AZ AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:29:19 AM

RE: AHCCCS Waiver Submittal - SB 1092

Please register my comment regarding this proposed legislation:

I am opposed to SB1092 Lifetime Limit enrollment to five years.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: DECLINE Waiver request to SB 1092
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:24:50 AM

To all of whom this may concern:

As faculty at the University of Arizona College of Medicine and College of Public Health, I urge you to decline the waiver requesting an amendment to SB 1092 that would place an extreme and undue burden on Medicaid recipients and greatly increase the cost of indigent care and human suffering.

The proposed amendment requires monthly verification of income status, despite the fact that one month is seldom indicative of a real change in family income or of medical needs. It also sets an arbitrary lifetime limit on Medicaid services of 5 years despite the fact that children and adults with severe and chronic illnesses, who are unable to earn sufficient income due to illness and disability, are unlikely to suddenly no longer require medical care after 5 years.

Please protect access to Medicaid for all vulnerable Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Please don't add extra SB 1092 proposed requirements to AHCCCS
Date: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 7:12:15 AM

Adding monthly work check requirements can add terrible burden to our less fortunate people and administrative burden and costs that in my opinion won't save as much cost as they add. SNAP uses a post card system and as a volunteer with Tempe Neighbors Helping Neighbors I drove a very ill cancer patient to the SNAP office to get his food benefit re-started after a card that was supposedly mailed to him, was not received by him. As a seriously ill person, he should not have had to suffer even more to keep his benefit. Some of our neighbors who collect benefits are among our most needy and deserving. Our needy neighbors are usually the ones who can least recover from administrative errors like missed cards or meeting dates. Many don't have computers and depend on mass transit or other transportation volunteers. They are not happy they have to be dependent but current circumstances cause them to need help.

Benefits like these help improve the health of society. People who get regular care spread less infectious illness and disease. For very selfish reasons, I prefer that as many people as possible receive health benefits, to reduce the spread of illness. I prefer that I, my extended family, my friends and neighbors all be able to go into public places, without unnecessary risk, and stay healthy.

Setting a time limit on benefits of 5 years is also not preferred. Some kind of periodic audit to deter fraud and catch the worst offenders can probably do the greatest good without cutting off people who for a legitimate reason need services for extended times.

Thank you for considering my comments in your review of this matter.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comments regarding Az1115 Waiver and SB1092 Annual Waiver Amendment Request
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:47:34 PM

How can we get more inhumane? If a person is sick, let him or her have health care. If that person is homeless, not working, mentally incompetent, pregnant, depressed, physically disabled - what does that matter? He is sick and needs medical attention! It is immoral and uncivilized to think of ignoring his/her need.

To those who say it costs money??? Well it costs the whole society and teaches our children horrible values to treat a sick person like trash! If we still think it costs too much, then cut our tax breaks for wealthy, stop paying for private prisons, cease to fund vouchers for private schools - just as starters. We are a wealthy society - but our wealth is totally unequally distributed. As a society, we can at least provide health care for all.

So please do not vote in a requirement to ban an eligible able-bodied adult from enrollment for any reason. And to not limit lifetime coverage for able bodied adults to five years.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver feedback
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 9:03:47 PM
Attachments: [AHCCCS Proposed Waiver Comments.docx](#)

February 20, 2017

Thomas J. Betlach M.P.A.,
Director Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System
801 E. Jefferson St., MD 4100
Phoenix, AZ 850
RE: Section 1115 Waiver Renewal

Dear Director Betlach:

As a nurse and an Arizona resident concerned about the health of our citizens, thank you for the opportunity to comment on Arizona's 2017 1115 Medicaid waiver application.

My comments focus on the following key areas of your waiver request:

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The requirement for all able-bodied adults to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job-training program.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The requirement for able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The authority for AHCCCS to ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->The authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years except for certain circumstances.

Work Requirement, Verification, and Suspended Eligibility Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation (2015) found three in four households eligible for Medicaid expansion in the U.S. have a full- or part-time worker. Among those not working, nearly half report that an illness/disability or family obligation was the main reason for their work status. Another 18% were going to school and 20% could not find work. To my knowledge, no such analysis has been done for the state of Arizona. We encourage you to conduct such an analysis before implementing the proposed work requirement. Other states report significant barriers to employment for Able Bodied Adults without Dependents as required by some states through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, including a lack of

employment history, lack of transportation, substance abuse, mental illness and felony convictions. For example, in Ohio, nearly 33% of clients reported a physical or mental health limitation, more than 30% have no high school diploma or GED, and 34% have felony convictions. Here again, I urge you to conduct an analysis to examine the employment barriers your members face before implementing the proposed work requirement. Getting more detailed information in advance will help you test a hypothesis that is more refined and targeted and more likely to demonstrate that it is effective at transitioning members off public benefits. I expect that your Waiver request work requirement will result in confusion for clients as well as eligibility staff and community partners. First, the Administration will need to determine who is subject to or exempt from the work requirement. It is likely that administrative challenges will exist throughout the notification, compliance, documentation and eligibility processes. Some points of considerable concern include:

- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->Will doctors/providers be faced with an unfunded mandate to determine work status of those requesting an exemption from the work requirement? An expectation that doctors/providers document work exemptions will harm the patient/provider trust relationship unnecessarily, potentially resulting in negative health outcomes.
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will eligibility staff understand and apply the rules related to the time limits consistently and accurately? Would these staff be located at AHCCCS or at the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES)? How will this avoid duplication with other work related programs in other state agencies like the DES?
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will Administration staff adequately and appropriately assess each individual for work readiness?
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What procedures will the Administration use among their more than 1 million members to document the means by which members will verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirement and any changes in family income? How will members verify that they have appropriately and correctly provide AHCCCS the necessary reports to retain his/her eligibility?
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will the Administration ensure that eligible Arizonans are not terminated, especially those who are physically or mentally unfit for employment? How will the Administration reinstate individuals who have been improperly terminated and credit them back the benefits?
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->How will staff understand and count allowable employment activities? How will they track the required number of hours and what will the Administration use as criteria for meeting attendance in school or job training requirements?
- <!--[if !supportLists]-->• <!--[endif]-->What changes will be necessary to forms, including applications and notices? How many new FTEs would be required to

implement the new requirement and how much additional administrative costs would that entail? It seems the cost to add this monitoring and data collection step is more than what could be saved by the outcome of this new requirement.

<!--[if !supportLists]--> <!--[endif]-->How will these new rules be communicated to clients in a way they understand and are able to respond?

For these reasons and concerns, I encourage the Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to withhold approval of the Administration's work requirement waiver request. Getting more detailed information and addressing the questions above in advance will help AHCCCS test a demonstration waiver hypothesis that is more refined and targeted and more likely to demonstrate effectiveness toward reducing individual reliance on public assistance.

Lifetime Limits and Disenrollment Removal of Medicaid coverage after 5 years of lifetime enrollment will negatively impact our collective efforts to improve health outcomes, threaten the viability of public and private investments, and jeopardize access to care for vulnerable populations. The Administration has included in its waiver request a lifetime limit of 5 years for Medicaid benefits. As Director Betlach has indicated a number of times, Medicaid and AHCCCS are counter cyclical programs. When the economy is in contraction, people lose employment and Medicaid enrollment tends to increase. The opposite is true during a robust economy. Economic cycles tend to occur in 8 – 12 year intervals, with several recessionary cycles during the employable life. In addition, there are much longer-term "geographic recessions" that exist in Arizona, even when the U.S. is not officially in a recession. Many parts of Arizona, particularly in rural and frontier areas, have much higher unemployment rates than our urban areas. These geographically depressed areas have fewer economic opportunities for residents, increasing the likelihood that they would exceed your proposed 5-year lifetime enrollment cap. The Administration's request provides no safety valve to account for the counter cyclical nature of the Medicaid program and the importance it plays during economic down swings. Further, it does not account for the economic opportunity disparity that many rural Arizona communities face. The proposed 5-year lifetime limit appears to be arbitrary and would needlessly limit access to healthcare for critical medical services for many Arizonans. In addition, individuals will seek care even if they have reached their 5-year lifetime limit, resulting in increased uncompensated care and care being delivered after complications have developed in more expensive settings. I oppose the request to place a 5-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS coverage because: 1) it would negatively impact the collective efforts to improve health outcomes; 2) it is not evidence-based; 3) the 5-year limit is arbitrary; 4) the request does not account for the countercyclical nature of the Medicaid program; and 5) it does not account for geographic economic opportunity disparities.

In summary, I encourage the Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to withhold approval of the Administration's work requirement waiver request until more complete analyses are completed and a clear picture of employment ability and status is known among AHCCCS members. Getting more detailed information in advance, including answering key implementation questions highlighted in this letter, will help AHCCCS test a Demonstration Waiver hypothesis that is more refined and targeted and more likely to demonstrate effectiveness toward reducing individual reliance on public assistance. I oppose the request to place lifetime limits on AHCCCS coverage because: 1) it would negatively impact the collective efforts to improve health outcomes; 2) it is not evidence-based; 3) the 5-year limit is arbitrary; 4) the request does not account for the countercyclical nature of the Medicaid program; and 5) does not account for geographic economic opportunity disparities in Arizona.

Finally, I would end with the laudable mission of AHCCCS '*reaching across Arizona to provide comprehensive, quality health care for those in need*' and ask if these punitive-appearing proposed actions assist AHCCCS to further their mission? I would argue they do not; instead I ask that Administration look at the preventative, integrative and promising practices that improve outcomes while decreasing overall cost. Addressing mental health illness, which is more than twice as prevalent among Medicaid beneficiaries as it is in the general population, and increasing access to navigators or case managers that can address social determinants of health and chronic illness have evidence and promise for the future, is but a few options well worth a closer look.

Thank you for considering our State's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Re Arizona AHCCCS Medicaid Waiver to add Work Requirement/Lifetime Limit
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 7:44:04 PM

Re: Arizona Medicaid Waivers to Add a Work Requirement and a Lifetime Limit

I am against these particular waivers to the Arizona Medicaid program, AHCCCS. Though well intentioned, they cannot in their present form REALISTICALLY accomplish the intended goals of Governor Doug Ducey's 2016 AHCCCS modernization program; Choice, Accountability, Responsibility and Engagement (CARE). In fact, they will be counter productive and cruel. Let's take a look.

Governor Doug Ducey's 20 hour per week adult able-bodied work requirement and lifetime coverage limit seem reasonable IF YOU DO NOT LOOK AT THE COVERED POPULATION.

Generally who uses AHCCCS? Poor people who are sick. This group tends to skew

toward the young, the rural, and older adults too young for Medicare. Some have chronic uncurable conditions which cannot be fixed by our current medical science, only ameliorated. The diseases put them on roller coasters through no fault of the patient. Some years they can function fully in society and some years they are totally disabled. Does a five year Lifetime Limit MAKE SENSE when your functional years are stretched out over decades? And what does "able-bodied" mean when your uncurable disease symptoms come and go on their own?

In fact, what does "able-bodied" mean anyway? What about the mentally ill, those with substance abuse problems, the partially disabled? These people might find it very hard to find and keep employment but also very hard to qualify for disability coverage. So they should just be kicked off the roles? How and where will they end up? In emergency rooms with terrible and sometimes preventable conditions that the hospitals and local governments will have to

pay for AT AN INCREASED COST.

What about care providers? They do the "right" thing by staying home and providing needed care in their households, potentially saving the public purse huge sums. They are probably "able-bodied" but they are not "employed." Let's kick them off the roles as well. Also, monitoring the recipient's work hours to meet these requirements? How much will that cost?

These are some of the cases that prove these requirements to be unworkable and costly. Public health insurance is a costly and necessary public good, the same as water treatment plants and sewage systems. Public health insurance saves lives and money over the alternative of no health insurance. It is necessary because there are some people who for various reasons do not qualify for a market based approach. They should be continued to be offered medical insurance. It is the humane thing to do, but also it is necessary for general public health.

We are approaching an era where there will be very few, if any effective antibiotics for many diseases. Tuberculosis is one example. Better to prevent and treat now. Excluding people from the system will only increase costs later and make public health worse.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 6:55:35 PM

Hello,

My name is Rachel Perugini, from Flagstaff AZ (86001). I am writing to express my concern over imposing limits to AHCCCS. My boyfriend has used AHCCCS for over two years now because of health issues that have kept him from working. With AHCCCS he has been able to go to many different appointments, get medication, and continue care that has helped him immensely. There are many people whose situations are far worse than ours, and it is sometimes not feasible for someone to get healthy on an arbitrary deadline. It is also not always possible for someone who is sick to work. Adding a 5 year limit and work requirements to AHCCCS would only serve to cause more stress to people who need our help and support. As a state, we should be working to help those in need, not push them off of life saving insurance when they need it most. Please do not consider limiting AHCCCS care from those who need it most.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 5:54:53 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 1115 Demonstration Waiver comments
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 4:51:12 PM

To the Director and staff of AHCCCS:

I would like to share my concerns regarding the proposed Arizona Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver Requests currently mandated to be proposed to CMS as a result of SB 1092 Directive.

I feel that any definition of the term “able-bodied” should be eliminated, and replaced with a statement that reflects that anyone that participates in the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, will be encouraged to seek employment whenever their health and personal lives can support it, and that health care providers will be encouraged to assist their enrolled clients in becoming gainfully employed whenever possible. Possibly finding a way to incentivize rather than punish.

When determining the definition of “able-bodies,” it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month or one day to the next an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation. There are also many physical health issues that can change from day to day that could make a person not “able-bodied” when they were the day before. As with each of these requirements, there are tremendous administrative and cost burdens being added to AHCCCS, health care providers and most importantly to the already over-whelmed individuals needing this support to stay alive.

I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. I also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

This requirement would not only be a burden to AHCCCS and clinic staff, but also to the individual. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult, and more stressful. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic health and mental health conditions under control, and a year lockout from health care coverage would be devastating.

As noted regarding “able-bodied,” there are also a host of physical health conditions that can change overnight and prevent participants from even thinking about checking into AHCCCS regarding if they looked for a job, as they were focused on life threatening health issues.

The same issues for homeless individuals (especially homeless young adults) would also exist, as their ability to meet deadlines, find transportation to appointments, and even remember appointments when worrying about their next meal and if they are going to live through the night is extremely difficult.

Work requirements and even missing a monthly reporting of their efforts that could cause them to lose coverage for a year is terribly short sighted (not to mention overly punitive) and surely adding to the cost to care for illnesses, and some of the most expensive ones, would fall back on emergency rooms and indigent care providers already overwhelmed; as well as increasing our unemployment and poverty rates because people would be too sick to work. Our goal is to keep people out of ERs and help them access lower levels of care (with lower associated costs), so this seems to be sending Arizona backwards with our support of those with mental health and physical health challenges. The huge government administrative burden and costs cannot be overstated.

I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, the difficulty of climbing out of poverty, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

Possibly even more to the point, is that this policy request change demonstrates a total lack of understanding of the reality of poverty and the condition of our economy. There are people that can give a lifetime of hard work while employed and never earn enough to be above the poverty line that makes them eligible for this health care coverage, or work for an employer that provides health insurance. This can be the condition for thousands of individuals that do not have the aptitude to participate in the “new economy”, and the lack of real word supports to get them out of poverty. And even for those with aptitude, this 5 yr limit shows a total lack of understanding of the realities of getting out of poverty in this country.

I oppose the recommended changes to eliminate non-emergency transportation.

Non-emergency transportation is extremely important to facilitate low-income patients getting the primary and preventive care they need. Those living in poverty have limited access to transportation. In rural and frontier areas, there may be no public transportation available at all. Even if transportation is available, many individuals cannot use it because of their health conditions, the expense or other reasons. Refusing to provide access to transportation will simply lead to a lack of access to necessary mental and physical health care, and job training and other preventive social resources that promote physical and mental health. This will often result in the need for more expensive care down the road and other system costs.

In summary: the specific issues noted above; the additional cost to everyone involved in time and

money to administer what would be created as a result of these policies; serious health and human costs that cannot be quantified; considering that by nature of being eligible to apply for these benefits one has to be living with the unbelievable burden of the Culture of Poverty; and the punitive nature of all of these request for policy changes are the opposite of what the science of human change and wellness tells us are the most effective ways of approaching these issues, makes the plea to reject these recommended changes even more urgent

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this submission of Waiver Requests.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 3:13:58 PM

Please stop SB1092 as it will result in (estimated) over a million people being deprived of medical care. Our country is better than this.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 2:25:33 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 1:24:12 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. "Able-bodied" does not take into consideration the mental health of those who need AHCCCS. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 11:58:15 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to make comments urging the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to decline the Waiver request for some of the following reasons:

1. This proposal would lead to more people to be forced to use the emergency room as their only place for health care and hospitals to face soaring costs in uncompensated care that get passed on to all of us in higher insurance premiums.
2. We know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low paying jobs, imposing a month reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more unattainable. Many people are able to work because they can keep chronic and mental health conditions under control through AHCCCS coverage.
3. These new requirements will have a negative spillover effect on children's health coverage and overall well-being. Research shows that Medicaid coverage contributes to long-term health and educational gains for children, declines in infant and child mortality, and improvements in health and financial security.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AZ HB 1092
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 10:48:54 AM

Please do not cut off medicaid for thousands of vulnerable and disabled individuals affected by this bill in Arizona. Without this coverage, my sister would never have been treated for breast cancer, a disease easily treated in its first stages. Medicaid saved her life. Medicaid saves the lives of thousands like her every day.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:53:44 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. I've been a Court Appointed Advocate for foster children for 14 years and have opportunity to work with the community who uses Medicaid. I will comment on each aspect of the program individually.

1. They must be employed, actively seeking employment, or attending school or a job training program.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education. Many of the people I work with are unable to work due to various issues but are unable to qualify for social security disability.

2. Adults would be required to verify their household income and employment eligibility on a monthly basis. Individuals who failed to comply with this requirement could be banned from AHCCCS services for one year.

Many of the most vulnerable medicaid recipients have no access to internet, lack the money for bus passes and have no phones. A reporting requirement may not be possible for some. Others may not be functioning at a high enough level to meet the reporting requirements and because of this would lose benefits.

3. A lifetime limit of five years of AHCCCS coverage would be applied to this population (with a few exceptions).

The low paying jobs that many of the families I work with do not provide insurance. That will probably not change so by putting a five year limit on benefits this will exclude many. Also, I am aware of students working and going to school part time. These students normally take many years to get through their studies and a 5 year limit puts their healthcare in jeopardy.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Date: Monday, February 27, 2017 8:35:41 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my concern about the SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal. Thanks to ACHHHS, Arizona presently has a model public health program which serves many who would otherwise be without health benefits. Implementation of this proposal would be at cross purposes to ACHHHS's aim of helping Arizonans stay healthy, nor would it truly cut costs.

The wisdom of imposing a five-year cap on benefits is questionable, given the many factors contributing to the need for ACHHHS. There is so much job insecurity in the present economic climate and up swings and down turns are the norm; thus, Arizonans cannot count on consistent and stable long-term work. It would be a shame to punish workers impacted by on-going fluctuations in the labor market.

This proposal would eliminate thousands of people from ACHHHS membership, and all Arizonans would be impacted in the long run by those citizens who cannot access regular preventative and maintenance care. As a diabetes prevention health educator, I saw first-hand that early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases was an excellent investment which saved hundreds of thousands of dollars later spent on major interventions due to complications – such as kidney dialysis, cardiovascular surgery, limb amputations and the implications of blindness. When patients lose their benefits, their health often deteriorates. Moreover, lack of access to regular treatment and follow-up for chronic conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, respiratory illnesses etc. results in repeated health emergencies, which, in addition to necessitating the frequent emergency room visits that are so much more expensive than regular care, also result in worse health outcomes.

The stipulation regarding active employment-seeking also is disconcerting for several reasons. It is presumptuous to assume that recipients are not already seeking employment. Moreover, the proposed verification procedures place an inappropriate burden on ACHHHS, an agency designated to facilitate health care access, not employment-related tracking. Furthermore, it would be costly to implement and maintain these changes, thereby diverting more precious dollars from health care delivery. Why not continue to focus on insuring that Arizonans be as healthy as possible? What can be gained by funneling more resources into administration instead health maintenance?

Please reconsider this proposal. Never have changes of this scope been approved federally; no doubt because of their punitive and short-sighted nature and the ultimate threat represented to health promotion for its citizenry.

I urge you to honor and preserve the excellent program in place in this state.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicare Section 1115 Waiver - Comments
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 10:28:17 PM

Sirs: I understand the deadline for public comments on the potential amendment to the above referenced waiver for AHCCCS Medicaid.

Having been involved when my mother-in-law was an AHCCCS enrollee, I am more than a little concerned about the long-term ramifications of this proposed amendment to our state's current waiver vis-à-vis Medicaid.

As I understand the proposal, it would require "all able-bodied adults" to become employed, be seeking employment, or attend school or job training. Defining "able-bodied" is essentially a gray area, open to interpretation (or worse, doctors who could scam the system by determining who might come under that category). There are so many areas of our state which have wildly different possible employment or training opportunities, that this requirement will lead to inevitable disputes and different applications among our counties.

Limiting life-time coverage has the unfortunate potential to have worse medical outcomes for individuals with difficult, long-term conditions.

I urge AHCCCS and the Centers of Medicare and Medicaid Services to refuse to approve this proposed amendment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 10:08:03 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Commets regarding SB 1092
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 8:00:48 PM

To whom it may concern:

I have been receiving Medicaid since I lost my full-time job in 2009 and my Cobra ran out. I looked for another job for 2 years and finally stopped and started my own housekeeping business which if I had to live on I would be on the streets where a lot of people are. I have lived with my mom four quite awhile and between the two of us we make ends meet. She is receiving social security and Medicare but I am still 3 years away from Medicare myself and it can't come soon enough for me.

1. able-bodied adults should be working, or looking, or training, but there are a lot of roadblocks like lack of transportation and without a car if you aren't within walking distance or have public transportation what can you do. Adults with children have it harder, they have find childcare or be home when they come home from school. My case in particular I lost my daughter and son-law in 2013, and now have my granddaughter living with us. I have had to turn down many job opportunities because I have to drop her off at school and pick her up. She is attending a public charter school and is getting a great education. We have one car and we tried for awhile to have my mother drop off my granddaughter at school, then take me to work, then turn around and pick my granddaughter up again, then pick me up when I was finished. She is 83 and can't do it any-more.

2. I can't see how verifying household income a monthly basis would make much of a difference, a better idea would be to just report when there is a change in household income or employment status, and take the pressure off of all concerned.

3. A lifetime limit of 5 yrs would be fine if we all lived 6 yrs or less. I have a medical condition that requires daily medication and a yearly medical checkup to drive so it is very important I have medical coverage and drug coverage. Why not add small c/o pays for doctor visits and drugs I know 5 or 10 dollars isn't going to break anyone's bank and the state would recoup some money that way. Limit doctor visits, I for one don't want to go to the doctor if I don't need to and waste the state's money. There are lots of ways this system could be fine tuned and go on for years. Thank you

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: totally against SB1092
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 5:55:50 PM

This is to let you know I am totally against SB1092.

I would ask that our legislators put themselves in the shoes of a parent caring for a disabled child, or a mom who all of a sudden finds herself being a single mom and cannot afford childcare. Healthcare is a right, especially for children and the parents of children. Why on earth would you want to go back to the days where more people are uninsured and are driven to using emergency rooms for healthcare or even worse go without any healthcare till they are to sick for care.

You voted to give yourselves Cadillac insurance so why should those who are guilty of simply being poor be treated so horribly. Where is your humanity?

I dare any legislator in Arizona to this challenge. Live off a forty hour minimum wage job for one month, care for two children, feed them, feed yourself, take buses everywhere and see what life is like. Oh by the way where are those kids going to go when you are at work?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid waiver request - AZ
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 4:34:54 PM

Sirs and Madams:

Please reject Arizona legislative request for a waiver to Medicaid rules. Arizona's medicaid system (AHCCCS) is a critical safety net for working families. Children would be harmed by new rules limiting participation; preventive care would be restricted; more people would go to emergency rooms for care; low income families are sometimes kept in poverty due to health issues.

So many reasons - let's just leave it as is.

Thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment RE SB 1092 Waiver to add Work Requirement/Lifetime Limit
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 2:58:31 PM

I object to SB 1092 and the proposed work requirement test and lifetime limits being added to the current Medicaid qualifications and urge that it be denied. I have concerns about the specifics of documenting, administering, and paying for this proposed waiver bill. I am also concerned about how it will negatively impact those currently covered. Please see my comments below:

What specific documentation will be required, how often must it be provided, and who will evaluate it? During the evaluation process, will applicants or current recipients have access to health care while they wait for approval? What kind of appeals process will there be?

How will the state pay for the cost to enforce and administer this new work requirement? Additional staff will need to be hired and trained. Will taxpayers really have a substantive tax relief after paying for the cost? Why not use that money to provide health care to Arizona residents under the current rules instead?

How will self-employed people prove they are working 20 hours a week? Will they have to submit self reported time sheets? Will only paid work hours count? What about all the unpaid work of administering a small business such as accounting, administrative tasks, taxes, marketing, networking, and more.

What about people with unpredictable or seasonal work (i.e. one month/season with only a few work hours of work per week followed by many hours). Will you average those hours out over some time period? Who makes that decision? Sounds expensive to administer.

I also oppose the 5-year lifetime limit. Many people have chronic health conditions, which, while not totally and permanently disabling, limit their ability to work and keep them in poverty. Even healthy people cannot control the economy and whether or not work will be available to them for 20 hours a week.

I strongly urge that this waiver request be denied. It hurts those who need help the most; it will send people back to expensive and overcrowded ERs for things that could have been prevented with adequate health care; and it does not properly describe how it will enforce or pay for the new requirements. I have single adult relatives, friends, and neighbors who will likely lose their AHCCCS health insurance if this waiver bill passes and is approved by the administration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 2:24:13 PM

Dear Director Betlach, Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education. Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 2:07:00 PM

Hello,

I am writing to voice my disagreement with SB1092 that seeks to impose a 5 yr lifetime limit and work requirements in order get AHCCCS benefits. I am the parent of a 23 year old with disabling bipolar illness. While I currently pay for all of his services and he has insurance through my employment, there will come a time that he will no longer be able to get those benefits and may have to rely on state help for healthcare. He has a chronic illness that does not come with a "time limit". Many of his medications are very expensive and without help, he will go without- increasing his risk for suicide and homelessness. He has difficulty finding employment due to his illness and its constraints - there are few employers willing to give him a chance for success and now this bill proposes he work in order to get any services. He would LOVE to be self sufficient, if you take away benefits, the chances of that fall to ZERO.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Remarks on Medicaid Waiver
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 1:55:30 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

I respectfully submit my comments in opposition to the Medicaid Waiver that AHCCCS seeks mandated by SB 1092, especially the provisions regarding the work requirement and the five year limit.

As a former public health administrator, we go to the evidence. There is evidence that children whose parents have health coverage are more likely to have a regular source of health care. According to Guendelman et al, if parents have access to health care their children are more likely to have regular care. [\[1\]](#)

Please consider other unintended consequences:

- Perinatal depression can occur for a year postpartum, setting up the child for a lifetime of less than optimal parenting if an undiagnosed parent is left untreated.
- Access to healthcare ensures greater financial stability for the whole family who covered, does not need to worry about being wiped out by catastrophic cost of care in an emergency.
- Barriers to employment include lack of transportation, mental illness and prior felony conviction. Additionally, many parts of the state have chronically high unemployment. Add to this that we are asking the most vulnerable to compete for any available jobs seems to put them in a no win situation from the onset.
- The administrative burden of deciding who is 'able bodied' will be onerous on an agency already working to capacity.
- AHCCCS has worked so hard these past years to support preventive health care. These requirements have the potential of shifting cost burdens to acute care facilities (EDs) when illnesses get out of hand.

Finally, Governor Ducey has been working so hard to turn back the tide of the opiate epidemic. This work requirement will knock out many who are seeking substance abuse treatment. Again, access to medical care is a safety net for the most venerable.

Please look to the evidence before making decisions that will impact the lives of those at the margin of society. Study the barriers to employment before you seek to impose these requirements, especially in the rural areas.

[1] *The Effects of Child-Only Insurance Coverage and Family Coverage on Health Care Access and Use: Recent Findings among Low-Income Children in California* Health Serv Res. 2006 Feb; 41(1): 125–147. doi: [10.1111/j.1475-6773.2005.00460.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1475-6773.2005.00460.x) and *Children's Ability To Access And Use Health Care* Sylvia Guendelman and Michelle Pearl doi: [10.1377/hlthaff.23.2.235](https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.23.2.235) Health Aff March 2004 vol. 23 no. 2 235-244

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: [Caution: Message contains Redirect URL content] Opposition to SB 1092 and Submission of its Mandated Waiver
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 12:06:30 PM

Dear Director Betlach:

I oppose your submission of any Waiver mandated by SB 1092 because it harms the “safety net” that we Republicans have championed since President Ronald Reagan ushered in Republicans as the majority, ruling party in the United States. Provision of medical care to our lower income citizens is far different than provision of welfare cash and food stamps. Arizonans understand withdrawing such welfare benefits for failing to pursue work. This is Health Care. Medical care for lower income citizens is a crucial part of our “safety net” and should not be conditioned on seeking work.

Rebuttal to each proposal is provided below and the waiver should not be submitted. I urge you to consult the AZPHA comment letter that makes solid points regarding your responsibilities as Director to study this matter further before submitting the annual request for a waiver that you have the discretion to refuse to submit:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56ec8d2562cd9413e14c0019/t/58aa46018419c2e78d79d1d0/1487554093770/AzPHA+2017+Waiver+Comments+.pdf>

This waiver is contrary to Reagan’s view of Government, and should not be submitted.

- The requirement for all able-bodied adults to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job training program. **Mental illness plagues many of our citizens and this bill does not adequately differentiate between those capable of work and those that cannot. Its definition of "ABLE-BODIED" MEANS AN INDIVIDUAL WHO IS PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY CAPABLE OF WORKING” wholly fails to permit AHCCCS to carefully sort who can and cannot work.**
- The requirement for able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. **Missing a monthly check-in will then risk one’s health care – a draconian result for a failed check-in that is not becoming of a majority party. This is Health Care we are dispensing, not cash benefits for failing to work. Further, a mentally fragile person that AHCCCS finds to be “able bodied” may simply lack the ability to make every monthly check-in. And so will Arizona and Republicans be known for casting these persons off of Medicaid-AHCCCS coverage?**
- The authority for AHCCCS to ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements. **Missing a change in family income will then risk one’s health care – such a draconian result for a failure to report a change in income is not becoming of a majority party. This is Health Care we are dispensing, not cash benefits for failing to work.**
- The authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years except for certain circumstances. **Medicaid is health care for our low income citizens and the five year cap abandons those that are not employable because of opioid addiction, felony convictions, failure to achieve a high school diploma or a GED. We are talking about a**

program that protects our least fortunate and least successful.

Rural Arizona will be particularly punished by this waiver request: Many parts of Arizona, particularly in rural and border areas, have much higher unemployment rates than our urban areas. These geographically depressed areas have fewer economic opportunities for residents, increasing the likelihood that they would exceed your proposed 5-year lifetime enrollment cap.

The Administration's request provides no safety valve to account for the counter cyclical nature of the Medicaid program and the importance it plays during economic down swings.

Thanks for considering these comments.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Expand and Improve Arizona's Medicaid!
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 9:47:54 AM

Bottom line: Medicaid [Expansion] works and we need to expand and improve it not dissolve it! Governor Brewer supported Medicaid Expansion and knows its benefits; she knows what will be lost if Governor Ducey proceeds with his backwards, "penny-wise, pound-foolish" plan to dissolve Medicaid Expansion.

To: [Public Input](#)
Date: Sunday, February 26, 2017 2:29:53 AM
Attachments: [text_0.txt](#)

.....

Please, please don't allow Medicaid to be taken away from my mentally ill, yet hard working 27 year old daughter. She could not get Medicaid until it was expanded under the ACA during the Obama administration. She is low income due to her illness and needs health care like all of us. Please don't cap it at 5 years either. Immoral to take coverage away from hard working people who need it but can't afford it. THANK YOU.

To: [Public Input](#)
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 11:42:22 PM

Hello, AHCCCS:

I write to oppose the proposed request that the federal government grant a waiver to Arizona's Medicaid program that would allow the state to restrict coverage of "able-bodied" individuals to those who are working or in school, and would limit coverage to a five-year period.

Aside from the dubious ethical and moral value of pushing yet another hardship onto our low-income neighbors and residents -- honestly, why does Arizona hate poor people? -- the unfortunate fact remains that, employed or not, people inevitably need care and hospitals will still provide it; under this waiver hospitals will lose reimbursement for care given to those who do not (or can not) keep up with these proposed requirements.

The immediate question before us, then, is whether we want hospitals to continue to receive reimbursement for care given. If not, pursue the waiver.

If so, kindly drop the matter.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Amendments to the current Section 1115 Waiver
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 4:45:18 PM

I am urging you to keep the current Medicaid requirements for adults for the Section 1115 Waiver instead of allowing Arizona to implement new eligibility requirements for "able bodied adults".

Seventy-nine percent of adult and child enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low paying jobs, imposing monthly reporting requirements with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more unattainable. Many people are able to work because they can keep chronic and mental health conditions under control through the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System.

This proposal would lead to more people using the emergency room as their only place for health care and hospitals to face soaring costs in uncompensated care that gets passed on to all of us in higher insurance premiums.

Please do not allow Arizona to implement these new eligibility requirements.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: [Caution: Message contains Redirect URL content] OPPOSED TO SB 1092 Waiver Proposal for 2017
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 4:04:53 PM

I object to the following parts of your waiver request:

- The requirement for all “able-bodied” adults to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job training program.
- The requirement for able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.
- The authority for AHCCCS to ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.
- The authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years except for certain circumstances.

I support the analysis and conclusions of the February 20, 2017 letter from Jeri Royce, AZ Public Health Association to AHCCCS Director Betlach.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/56ec8d2562cd9413e14c0019/t/58aa46018419c2e78d79d1d0/1487554093770/AzPHA+2017+Waiver+Comments+.pdf>

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS change
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:42:10 PM

To whom it may concern;

I would ask that you do not change the eligibility requirements for “able bodied adults” receiving AHCCCS in Arizona. This would directly diminish the protections of the ACA.

I disagree with these requirement changes because:

- they diminish healthcare protections in place
- many recipients suffer from mental health issues that would not fall under the category of “able bodied”
- a majority of Americans support keeping the Medicaid protections gained under the ACA in place

Thank you for your attention. I urge you not to approve the waiver of these requirements for AZ AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 3:22:35 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. **It most negatively impacts those citizens who for the same reason they are so needing of these services, often have the biggest barriers – those with substance abuse and mental health issues.**

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 12:04:18 PM

To whom it may concern;

I would ask that you do not change the eligibility requirements for “able bodied adults” receiving AHCCCS in Arizona. This would directly diminish the protections of the ACA.

I disagree with these requirement changes because:

- they diminish healthcare protections in place
- many recipients suffer from mental health issues that would not fall under the category of “able bodied”
- a majority of Americans support keeping the Medicaid protections gained under the ACA in place
- it doesn't make sense to limit "lifetime" coverage to 5 years

Thank you for your attention. I urge you not to approve the waiver of these requirements for AZ AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Bill 1092
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 11:23:00 AM

This is to let you know that I think SB 1092 is - in the words of our President - a "total disaster" and should have been eliminated from the agenda of the Arizona legislature. This legislation does nothing but punish people for being poor. The 5-year limit takes people already desperate for basic resources and pushes them off a cliff at the end of 5 years. This is especially true for those with chronic illnesses that will not simply go away after 5 years. The requirement to take assigned employment doubly punishes single parents and their children, those who already cannot afford expensive child care arrangements. Now you want to force them to work minimum wage jobs and at the same time endure unnecessary separation from their kids.

All of this is doubly ironic, given that the Arizona state legislature voted overwhelmingly to provide themselves with lifetime Cadillac state-subsidized health coverage - even though they are part-time workers. You can smell the hypocrisy, not to mention the completely mean-spirited lack of human empathy on the part of 1092's supporters.

I should not neglect to mention that the AZ legislature, with Governor Ducey's eager collusion, has by law prevented those needy Arizona citizens from participating in health care plans and assistance provided by the Affordable Care Act.

At a recent public meeting in Tucson, one bemused participant asked the question, "Why would anyone want to take someone's health care away?"

I would revise that question to read, "What kind of person would take someone else's health care away?"

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 11:00:49 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Tucson resident in the 85705 zip code. I work full-time as a long-term care case manager and I am a graduate student in Social Work at ASU. I oppose SB 1092 because it will take away health insurance for those who truly need it. Even though AHCCCS beneficiaries may be able to find work within 5 years they might not have access to adequate health insurance once employed (either through their employer or through a public plan). They may not be able to afford other health insurance plans. This loss of coverage will not only affect AHCCCS beneficiaries. It will also negatively impact Arizona businesses and the economy. It will be more expensive for the state and Arizona citizens if these individuals lose coverage because worker productivity will go down and former beneficiaries will end up in the emergency rooms or on the streets and require police intervention, etc.

I urge you to oppose SB 1092.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: new eligibility requirements for Medicaid
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 10:47:46 AM

To whom it may concern;

I would ask that you do not change the eligibility requirements for “able bodied adults” receiving AHCCCS in Arizona. This would directly diminish the protections of the ACA.

I disagree with these requirement changes because:

- they diminish healthcare protections in place
- many recipients suffer from mental health issues that would not fall under the category of “able bodied”
- a majority of Americans support keeping the Medicaid protections gained under the ACA in place

Thank you for your attention. I urge you not to approve the waiver of these requirements for AZ AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: vote NO to 1092 AHCCCS changes with work component and 5 yr limit
Date: Saturday, February 25, 2017 10:05:25 AM

I got on AHCCCS at 59 thankfully via ACA expanded medicaid.

It is inhuman to require a work component and limit coverage to 5 years.
I am not going to work more at 65 - I will not be healthier at 65.

Federal Legislators have Cadillac plans that continue when they in office - and OUT of office.
I don't know what state legislators get , but it's for sure a wonderful comprehensive plan that doesn't leave you high and dry.

This is immoral to kick a low income senior off expanded medicaid after 5 years when we will need more healthcare not less.

There is so much wealth in this county - a 1/10 of one percent tax on just one investment - pick one -- foreign currency, any investment trade - would garner billions and not hurt anyone.
There are solutions rather than inhumanly let us get sick and die being booted off AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Arizona Section 1115 Amendment Request
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 7:59:27 PM

I am very opposed to the Section 1115 Waiver Request for AHCCCS to impose a 5-year Lifetime Limit and Work Requirement.

First, many people on AHCCCS are low functioning and have a hard time just surviving. Many of these people do not have the capacity to work at a job and earn health insurance through employment. The 5-year limit would leave many people without health insurance and would significantly increase unreimbursed hospital expenses.

Second, I am concerned with the definition of "able-bodied" Previous requests have included an exemption for the disabled. This includes people on Social Security Disability Income (SSDI), Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and the Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI). This language should be included in the waiver request.

Third, the demand for monthly reporting of income and work is onerous and almost impossible for many people on AHCCCS to meet. This requirement should be dropped from the waiver request.

Fourth, I feel this legislation opens the door to future legislative efforts to restrict services to our most vulnerable citizens.

I request that you drop this whole waiver request.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 7:06:08 PM

Hello,

I am writing to urge the REJECTION of the proposed AHCCCS requirements of employment, monthly compliance checks, and lifetime coverage limits.

Each of these proposed requirements would be functional class discrimination--putting restrictions and requirements on those who are already most vulnerable to changes in the state's economy. The folks who benefit from AHCCCS are often disabled, unable to access training, or without familial support. To cut off their healthcare benefits is to leave them in the streets, and will cost the state more, ethically and economically, in the long run.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment RE SB 1092 Waiver Work Requirement/Lifetime limit
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 7:01:43 PM

I object to this waiver request and urge that it be denied. Please see my comments below:

I am currently a childless adult who receives Medicaid benefits. For the last year or so, I have not been able to work much due to chronic health conditions. However, I have not yet applied for disability as I hope my condition will improve enough for me to go back to work. Right now, my income is zero, and, if not for the Medicaid expansion, I would have NO access to health care. Instead, I would have to forgo care until an expensive emergency situation, go to an ER, and then likely not be able to pay the bill. So taxpayers, hospitals, and others would bare that cost or they would have to let me die in the street. This situation, which is bad for everyone, is exactly what the ACA/Medicaid expansion has rectified. I am grateful for the ACA and to former governor Jan Brewer for accepting the Medicaid expansion--allowing me to get healthcare when I need it most.

That said: I am very worried about losing my care if the work requirement is imposed. There are no details in the bill about when and how it will be enforced. I have the following concerns:

1. How will people like me be able to prove we are not able to work? What specific documentation will we need to provide, how often must we provide it, and who will evaluate it? How long will the evaluation take and will we have access to health care while we wait for approval? What kind of appeals process will there be?
2. How will people who are self-employed (like I was for a time before stopping work entirely) be able to prove they are working 20 hours? Will they have submit time sheets every month? Who will read all those time sheets and decide they are acceptable? Do only paid work hours count? What about all the unpaid work of administering a small business such as accounting, administrative tasks, marketing, networking, etc.?
3. What happens to people with unpredictable or seasonal work where they might have one month with very few work hours followed by a month with many? Or one good season followed by a season with no work? Will you average those hours out? Over what time period? Who makes that decision?
4. How will you pay for all the money it will cost to enforce this work requirement? Who will do all the extra administrative tasks involved? Will you be able to hire enough additional staff and properly train them in time? Why not use the money it will cost to instead provide health care to Arizona residents?
5. I also oppose the 5-year lifetime limit. Many people have chronic health conditions, which, while not totally and permanently disabling, limit their ability to work and keep them on the edge of poverty. Further, even healthy people cannot control the economy and the work that is available to them. My health may improve next year or it may not. It may improve for a few years and then fail again. It may improve, but I may not be able to find adequate work after having been out of the job market. If I reach the end of the 5-year limit, what should I do then? I am trying to avoid permanent disability. I want to participate in the economy as much as I am able. However, this limit may force people like me to suffer, and possibly die from lack of care, while we wait to become so sick as to be considered totally and permanently disabled so we can apply for SSDI and get care that way. That is counterproductive, not to mention cruel and inhumane.

I strongly urge that this waiver request be denied. It hurts those who need help the most; it will send people back to expensive and overcrowded ERs for things that could have been prevented with adequate health care; and it does not properly describe how it will enforce or pay for the new requirements it seeks to implement.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 6:02:02 PM

Good day

I am very concern about changes being made at this time to anything related to people's health care. I know a lot of things that are written are done so that the normal every day people cannot understand what is being said.

With the ACA going away with nothing to replace it, why are we changing anything at this time?
I am not saying everything with AHCCCS is perfect but.....

this is unclear "Is the sole caregiver of a family member who is under 6 years of age" does that mean as long as there is 1 member under 6 or once there is a member that becomes old enough to watch a 6 year old? And if so what is that age? I live in an area where a lot of children run without supervision because the parent need to work and all that does is cause a lot of trouble. They cause damage and commit crimes as young as ten.

And what does a life time limit mean? Maybe they need it now and use it but something happens in the future and they can no long have this to help them?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 Opposition
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 5:09:30 PM

Hello,

I am writing to expression my opposition to SB1092, the AHCCCS waiver proposal. I work for a homeless services agency in Phoenix, and believe the proposed requirements would cause undue burden for our state's homeless and low income population, as well as administrative burden for AHCCCS.

The clients I work with everyday have numerous challenges to obtaining employment- low education achievement, criminal record, and lack of opportunities to make a livable wage. Current homelessness is also an additional barrier: with no regular access to showers, professional clothing, computers, phones (all the things housed employment-seekers often take for granted), how can even able-bodied adults be expected to apply, interview, and obtain and maintain full time permanent employment? This all says nothing of the lack of job training and education opportunities available. How can we expect people to enter the workforce when we can't even equip them with the tools to be successful?

The monthly requirement for unemployed people to check in with proof of job search also creates a burden on the state.

Overall, the proposal is not well conceived and has major flaws that have serious implications for Arizona's most vulnerable citizens. Implementing these requirements will cause people to lose health care coverage, however, their need for medical attention does not go away just because their insurance does.

I urge you to consider the consequences of passing this bill. It is not in the best interest of Arizona's citizens.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Opposition to SB 1092
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 5:01:05 PM

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this e-mail because I don't agree with what is being proposed in Senate Bill 1092. Specifically, I don't agree with limiting lifetime benefits to five years and the work requirement. I have a mental illness and have been receiving services through the Regional Behavioral Health Authority since the year 2000. I have gone through periods of unemployment in that time. I wouldn't be alive today if it weren't for the services I have received. I don't think it is the right thing to do to take away the safety net from a needy and vulnerable group of people.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:49:25 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty **and unemployment**, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of **initiative or education**.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:47:52 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

I am writing to express my concerns about the proposed restrictions on “able-bodied” adults under the Medicaid waiver program. This is a misguided attempt to limit health resources to people who may need medical care the most. What kind of society punishes people who are least able to fend for themselves?

Aside from the lack of compassion demonstrated in this proposal, there are other reasons not to impose these restrictions. People without access to primary care end up in emergency rooms at considerable cost to all of us. If they are not well and get no care, they will fall farther into poverty requiring even more in public assistance.

Thank you for considering the needs of all Arizonans. Please create a sustainable health care system for all.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:41:56 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. The direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, my concern is focused on the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe health is a human right. Medicaid provides a critical health lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 4:28:24 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver SB 1092
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 3:04:50 PM

Work Requirement: Requires all able-bodied adults to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job training program.

Fundamentally I support having abled bodied adults to become employed or to be actively seeking employment. I struggle with how this will be managed; who determines actively seeking employment; who oversees whether or not someone has become employed, how is able-bodied defined etc.? How do we ask adults to seek out work if there are limited opportunities for them to apply? Education levels, technical skills, physical health all play a role in finding employment. I am concerned that this will place an undue hardship on the State to monitor activities of individual enrollees potentially costing the program as much as it does to insure them.

Monthly Income and Work Requirement Verification: Monthly Redetermination of Eligibility Requires members to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.

Many members in AHCCCS don't have the educational understanding on how to manage a monthly requirement. It maybe from mental illness but often it is just a lack of understanding or lack of education. We see many families living in poverty struggling to pay rent or utility bills monthly. Asking that they take on one more monthly verification will create undue stress.

Permits the State to re-determine eligibility monthly based on the income and employment related information provided by beneficiaries.

Not sure who would manage this project. It is challenging today to get new families in for eligibility or renewals; if this isn't completed how will it impact the member? I believe the current system is strong enough to provide a checks and balance on whether or not income has changed enough to impact member eligibility. The positive could be that additional positions will be needed and the able-bodied adults seeking employment could apply. I assume the members would meet the requirements needed to do the job.

Enrollee Disenrollment Allows AHCCCS to ban an eligible person from enrollment for

one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

If someone knowingly failed to report than it is reasonable to ban them from enrollment. Of course, I am not confident we will be able to manage the work requirements being proposed.

5 year limit Places all able-bodied adults on a lifetime limit of five years with exceptions for certain circumstances.

Although I am okay with a five year limit the words lifetime are concerning. Today I may need the services of AHCCCS, I may be on the plan for 4 years and I land an excellent job. 15 years later I loss the job, I get back on the plan and I am not able to find employment, there is nothing in my field, I have gotten older etc. So even though I have been a great tax payer and contributor to our State I no longer can receive benefits after 1 year as I would have exceeded my 5 year lifetime limit. This feels very punitive to those of us that use the system for what it is intended to do; support lower income individuals unable to pay for health insurance. I also feel that as someone that has worked for many years in this State, paying my taxes and supporting my community, being penalized because of those that overuse the system isn't the answer.

Thank you!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 2:46:05 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 2:41:09 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 1:50:21 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Waiver Comments
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 1:41:35 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

As a social worker and a professional working in public health in Arizona, I am very concerned about the contents of the SB 1092 waiver. I feel the waiver will negatively impact the collective efforts being made to improve health outcomes statewide, particularly within the high-risk, vulnerable populations. The contents of the waiver are not evidenced-based and I feel the 5-year limit is completely arbitrary. As any professional working with families can tell you, a need for healthcare does not stop after 5 years. Moreover, the amendment does not take into account the many geographic and economic opportunity disparities that are pervasive across Arizona.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the waiver. Please consider my comments as well as the letter submitted by the Arizona Public Health Association.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 24, 2017 1:22:23 PM
Attachments: [image817000.png](#)
[image844001.png](#)
[image827002.png](#)
[image538003.png](#)

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 9:38:25 PM

Please see comments below concerning the above legislation. My comments below describe the unfairness of this proposed measure.

- The requirement for all able-bodied adults to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job training program.

It is unfair to place so much emphasis on employment when education and job training opportunities are scarce and often ineffective, and the reality is there are not enough living wage jobs in Arizona. In addition, recipients may face significant barriers, such as lack of transportation or lack of employment history or qualifications.

- The requirement for able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.

This requirement will add administrative challenges and costs. How will AHCCCS ensure that eligible Arizonans are not terminated, especially those who are physically or mentally not fit to work? Adding an additional population could strain Arizona's workforce development system, which has limited funds for vocational training, supportive services, and work readiness preparation. Does the State have the resources to establish monthly eligibility review, notification of members, and provision of services to support the job search of members?

- The authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years except for certain circumstances. This requirement applies to adults age 19 and older physically and mentally capable of work, with exceptions such as pregnancy or caring for a child under age six, unless the person is employed full time.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: "Forum on proposed ahcccs changes to be held Friday"
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 6:20:17 PM

In the article which appeared in the "Daily Star" you asked for feedback to the proposed law that citizens who are on AHCCCS must get a job after a certain length of time, or lose this insurance.

I am also on "Food Stamps".

I was born in 1934. My family was all farmers and we prided ourselves on our ability to take care of ourselves.

I began working as a secretary and credit administrator at a furniture store at the age of 15; then after I married and had children, I worked only while they were in school. I began working full time after my children no longer needed constant supervision.

I continued to work full time until I was laid off due to the store where I had worked for thirteen years. (in 2010) I was certain that I would have a job within the month. I continued to send off resumes, and went on interviews. When people saw that I was not a "young chick" the interview was short I applied for unemployment and that ran out, then my savings did the same.

The point I am trying to make is this:

I have tried in every way possible to get a job. Even telling them I was okay with less money than I was earning in 2010. I finally faced the facts: there is no possibility of my landing a job. I stopped sending resumes in July, 2015...

I knew I could not pay the medical bills should I get sick or hurt, nor could I pay for insurance; and since I am now living on \$809 Social Security benefits, and qualify for help from the government, hence I felt it was wise to apply for AHCCCS and food stamps.

I am shamed that I can't take care of myself without "begging" and using taxpayer money, but I am forever grateful that the "parachute" is there.

Stating the obvious, jobs need to be available for the jobless to get a job, and for the "older" person who still has his/her faculties, all age discrimination must suddenly disappear. (I am not holding my breath)

Thank you for allowing my opinions to be aired.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 DO NOT ASK FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE 5 YEAR LIFETIME LIMIT
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 4:19:57 PM

To Whom It Might Concern:

My name is Elena Guijarro and I'm the mother and legal guardian of my son, Eric Kurschat, a recipient of AHCCCS. He has been receiving healthcare/social services thru SWN for his severe mental illness since 2011. He is currently one of those termed "able adults", although he can barely work at the job he has due to the stress his schizophrenia causes him. I have applied to the SSA twice to obtain benefits for him and have been turned down just as many times. He will be 26 years old this April and will only have AHCCCS as a healthcare coverage. We won't be able to afford the cost of his medications or wraparound treatment plan if he is eliminated from the healthcare program.

Please DO NOT ASK FOR APPROVAL OF THE 5-year lifetime limit. It is not only unfair, but dangerous to stop coverage for the SMI population, just because some of them work a few hours a week. SB1092 encourages the mentally ill not to look for a job for fear of losing their benefits and it places them in danger of relapse thus costing more in emergency health care and other benefits. And let's not forget that they are taxpayers too.

I hope you make the right decision and do not ask to approve the 5-year time limit for the mentally ill beneficiaries.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 2:46:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)

Hello,

I am writing to express my concerns about authorizing the remaining changes to AHCCCS that have been proposed which will allow for the lifetime limit of Medicaid coverage as well as the work requirement. I believe that both of these changes will hurt individuals who rely on this coverage to be able to get adequate medical care. If we limit their ability to be covered to 5 years and they do not have the ability to obtain or cannot afford insurance through the marketplace (which may no longer exist after proposed changes with the current implementation), the burden will end up being on providers and ultimately tax payers to cover the costs of their medical needs. These uncovered individuals may go untreated for conditions and medical issues that would be easily maintained if they had ongoing routine medical care, leading to more serious conditions and ultimately more costly treatment. I do not agree with the proposed changes and urge you to re-consider the new requirements.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Waiver
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 2:26:30 PM

Hi,

I'm writing first of all to thank the AHCCCS program for the awesome medical care that has been given to my little brother Stu, who has multiple disabilities. Because of AHCCCS, he would not have his epilepsy under control after 46 years of a life of petit mal and grand mal seizures. All the medications are paid for. He would not be under the care of a wonderful primary care physician who has treated other conditions. While we have paid for my brother's hearing aids throughout his life as well as dental care, and services related to his developmental disabilities, we feel so fortunate for the medical opportunities that he as.

I question how AHCCCS knows who is able or unable to work. We first completed the AHCCCS application with the help of Keogh Healthcare. I was having difficulty understanding some of the questions. We then started the grueling process of SSI, which was going to help show that Stu wasn't physically able to work 40 hours and support himself due to the seizure disorder, in addition to paying for all of his medications. The application was 121 pages. We were rejected the first two times due to a missed question or a form not included in the application. I was determined and completed a third application. He was accepted, finally, and his initial monthly payment was about \$675. He also works bagging groceries at a Fry's about 20 hours a week. The SSI designation is proof that he isn't able to work to pay all his bills without that \$675 monthly payment. I wonder how many people know how to go about qualifying their adult family members as "unable to work." I have been a social worker for 30 years, and the process was horrible.

It is people like my brother who deserve extra services to assist them in proving to AHCCCS that they have a disability that doesn't permit for them to work to support themselves and pay for all their medical costs. I don't know of one program that helps people complete the SSI/SSDI applications. Advocates for the Disabled used to, but they closed their doors several years ago. Just one of my brother's epilepsy medications costs \$800/month, and that's how much he takes home in pay!

Please take care that people like my brother don't fall through the cracks. Please make a decision that will also help Arizona's reputation as an intolerant state.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Waiver Request- Comment
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:24:58 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to Arizona's Medicaid program. At Planned Parenthood we are proud to serve thousands of Medicaid participants annually. On behalf of these clients, we would like to express our concerns on the changes AHCCCS is requesting from CMS.

- 1) **Employment and training requirement for able-bodied adults.** While we understand the impulse to hold participants in government programs accountable- The absence of living wage jobs in Arizona, and the scarcity of education and job training opportunities make this requirement difficult to implement in a productive way. The reality for our patients is that they face significant barriers, such as lack of transportation or lack of employment history or qualifications. Without infrastructure to support employment and training, this requirement is ill-advised.
- 2) **Verification monthly of compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.** Requiring monthly eligibility verification will simply add one more unjust barrier to those insured through AHCCCS, not because they are not in compliance, but because monthly verification adds an unnecessary burden on time and transportation. Such a requirement almost seems specifically designed to "thin the ranks" and this is wrong.
- 3) **A 5 year lifetime limit of coverage for all able-bodied adults except for certain circumstances.** The Great Recession of 2008 taught Arizona many lessons. It was the worst economic downturn in the state's history, more severe even than the Great Depression of the '30s. Individuals lost their homes, their businesses, and many were unemployed for years. We are only just recovering now, 8 years later. Imposition of a 5 year limit seems particularly cruel in times like those, and Medicaid enrollment does increase when the economy is in decline. Punishing individuals for the vicissitudes of the economy is inhumane and counterproductive, and creating more uninsured people will only add to the burdens of an already stressed health care system.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide input for the waiver process.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 1115 Waiver/SB 1092 Comments
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:21:40 PM

Dear AHCCCS:

I am trained in Public and Rural Health and am writing as an independent citizen, born and raised in Tucson, AZ. I am a Certified Navigator, which means I am trained to educate and enroll individuals in health insurance coverage, including AHCCCS.

I wanted to express concern with the five year lifetime coverage limit for all “able bodied adults.” This is an obstacle for rural and vulnerable populations. Rural populations experience higher rates of chronic disease and lower socioeconomic statuses, often leading to negative health outcomes. They also experience higher rates of being uninsured. Often individuals remain in poverty for their lifetime. If after five years they reach their limit, these individuals would then be uninsured.

In rural counties, Medicaid expansion and the Affordable Care Act brought rural safety net hospitals out of negative margins and away from closure risk. These rural hospitals rely on reimbursements from public and private payers. When their uncompensated care costs go up due to treating the uninsured, they shut down.

Rural hospitals are often the primary employer in rural counties, so not only does a closed hospital impact their health, it impacts their economy.

If we create a new barrier to accessing health insurance coverage, such as the five year limit, we’re increasing the uninsured and putting rural counties in this great state of Arizona at risk. Leaving individuals uninsured merely shifts costs to hospitals, particularly in their Emergency Departments. Due to the unique landscape of our state and the impact a five year limit would have on our rural communities, please consider barring a limit. Thank you for your time and commitment to our community.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 1:20:29 PM

I am a citizen living in Arizona. My son who also resides in Arizona, has had a serious mental illness since the age of 19. Due to his illness it has been impossible for him to work and thanks to AHCSS he has been able to get the treatment that for the most part keeps him out of the hospital and off the street .

I have been and advocate for mental illness, participating on a state committee for Stigma Reduction for Mental Illness and have been on the board of NAMI, National Alliance for Mental Illness. I am completely opposed to the proposal to impose a 5 year lifetime limit and work requirement. This would be cruel and primitive treatment for people who suffer everyday with serious illness.

I assure you, I wish my son were able to work and did not need these supports. Please do not impose these limits.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 12:44:35 PM

These waivers place an undue burden on those least able to withstand such a burden. This is a matter of life and death.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Regards: AHCCCS Waiver
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 11:52:46 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

There are some issues both with Public Health Concerns and Financial Concerns with this Amendment to the AHCCCS wavier.

1. An unintended consequence of this might increase people going into the ER for general care which increases costs and time issues in the ER.
2. In the Public Heath area, it would most likely result in people not getting care until very ill.
3. If jobs are lacking and very difficult to obtain in our society currently, then why create more issues for those who are unemployed?
4. If ACA is repealed, how will individuals who are not employed or employed as part-time, contract, etc.; or those working for employers who do not offer health care as a benefit, able to obtain care?
5. This amendment ASSUMES that individuals can find work within 5 years and that the employer will offer health insurance as a benefit.

This amendment may have some serious negative unintended consequences for those living in the state not to mention the impact on all health types of providers.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: the SB 1092 Waiver Amendment Request Public Notice
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 10:05:54 AM

Please decline the Waiver request because: 1) it would negatively impact our collective efforts to improve health outcomes; 2) is not evidence-based; 3) the 5-year limit is arbitrary; 4) the request does not account for the counter-cyclical nature of the Medicaid program; and 5) the amendment request does not account for geographic economic opportunity disparities in Arizona.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public Comment on Section 1115
Date: Thursday, February 23, 2017 7:16:05 AM

To whom it may concern,

I appreciate the efforts our government makes to provide healthcare in a cost effective manner to as many individuals as possible. However, I urge you to withhold approval of the work requirement waiver request until more complete analyses are executed and a clear picture of employment ability and status is known among AHCCCS members. This requirement cannot possibly be implemented and result in a positive impact to our overall population health and state fiscal benefit without more informative evidence.

It is especially important to gain answers to the following questions posed by the AZPHA:

Will doctors/providers be faced with an unfunded mandate to determine work status of those requesting an exemption from the work requirement? We have heard from the behavioral health community that there are barriers in getting doctors willing to complete the necessary paperwork to receive or maintain SSI/SSDI. An additional expectation that doctors/providers document work exemptions will exacerbate this problem.

How will eligibility staff understand and apply the rules related to the time limits consistently and accurately? Would these staff be located at AHCCCS or at the Arizona Department of Economic Security?

How will Administration staff adequately and appropriately assess each individual for work readiness?

What procedures will the Administration use among their more than 1 million members to document the means by which members will verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirement and any changes in family income? How will members verify that they have appropriately and correctly provide AHCCCS the necessary reports to retain his/her eligibility?

How will the Administration ensure that eligible Arizonans are not terminated, especially those who are physically or mentally unfit for employment? How will the Administration reinstate individuals who have been improperly terminated and credit them back the benefits?

How will staff understand and count allowable employment activities? How will they track the required number of hours and what will the Administration use as criteria for meeting attendance in school or job training requirements?

What changes will be necessary to forms, including applications and notices? How many new FTEs would be required to implement the new requirement and how much additional administrative costs would that entail?

How will these new rules be communicated to clients in a way they understand and are able to respond?

Please thoughtfully reconsider the decision to approve the work requirement. I appreciate the time you will dedicate to this matter.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Oppose Medicaid Cuts
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 11:52:59 PM

AHCCCS is a program which works. It should be expanded and improved, not gutted. The Governor's plan to remove all able-bodied adults from the rolls would move us in the wrong direction. The resulting decrease in coverage would cost lives and the increase in uncompensated care would be more expensive for all of us in the long run. Please oppose these changes. Thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Fwd: Section 1115 Waiver Renewal: my opposition
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 10:20:32 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

As a public health professional, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to Arizona's 2017 Medicaid waiver application. The proposed requirements are arbitrary and without any evidence as to their effectiveness or implications for health and costs. I encourage the Administration and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to withhold approval until an analysis can answer implementation questions and test the hypotheses on which the requirements are based.

We do not have basic information on how many AHCCCS enrollees are working and the reasons the rest are not. Other states have documented small numbers of non-working able-bodied enrollees, and significant barriers to their employment. Withholding medical coverage from this population based on arbitrary cutoffs would have negative implications for the individuals as well as the health care system, without proof of a benefit. A thorough cost/benefit analysis has not been done, so there is no guarantee that the requirements would generate savings once the significant additional administrative burden is taken into account.

I fully support these and other concerns and issues raised in the Arizona Public Health Association's comment letter.

Thank you for your time and this opportunity to comment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Arizona Section 1115 Waiver Amendment request / Senate bill 1092
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 5:12:29 PM

To Whom it may concern

Previously SMI and disabled individuals were exempt from this proposed action and I understand now that this current draft has removed protection for those individuals. This is preposterous and potentially very damaging to these individuals who require lifelong treatment

Please do your job and protect our most vulnerable citizens

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 3:58:57 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As the director of a statewide organization that represents nonprofits that work tirelessly to end homelessness for Arizonans, I firmly believe that there are three basic essential elements in ending homelessness in our state. The first is access to affordable housing, something this state lacks. There are over 150,000 families in Arizona paying more than half their income towards rent. The second element is a livable wage. I often hear that people experiencing homelessness “just need to get a job”, but in reality, many homeless individuals and families are employed, but in low-wage employment situations. Finally, the third essential element in ending homelessness is access to health care.

That’s why I am writing to you to express our concerns about the direction of our state’s Medicaid program, and the ability to access the program for millions of people in our state.

I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on “Able-Bodied” adults. I believe that health is a human right, one of the essential tool in ending homelessness, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Individuals and families living in and out of shelters and working toward gainful employment and permanent housing struggle to meet their basic needs of food, clothing, and shelter, much less adherence to monthly check-ins to continue their care.

Please consider the over 9,000 individuals, families, and veterans living without a safe, affordable place to call home in our state when guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 1:29:08 PM

To whom it may concern:

I'm very much AGAINST SB 1092.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on 1115 Waiver
Date: Wednesday, February 22, 2017 12:22:44 PM

I am writing to express my opinion about the waiver proposal.

I am opposed to ALL the proposed requirements for able bodied adults.

People living in poverty have more social determinants of health than those with resources. Health care is a universal right and we have a moral obligation to provide it to Arizonans.

Also, these proposed requirements will shift the burden of cost to the first responders, emergency rooms and community clinics. This will result in bigger shortages than already exist.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 12:41:55 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

-

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Please retain AHCCCS/Medicaid access for needy Arizonans
Date: Tuesday, February 21, 2017 10:11:07 AM

Good Day:

I am writing to express my support for keeping our state's current expanded access to Medicaid. I appreciate AHCCCS, which has greatly benefited my family and our state.

Affording Arizonans with timely medical treatment improves health outcomes statewide. Since Medicaid expansion occurred, uncompensated care has fallen, pressure on emergency rooms has moderated, and Arizona has become a leader in terms of healthcare growth. Medicaid expansion also increases employment in the health care sector, generating additional income and sales taxes. In short, Arizona's enhanced AHCCCS approach saves lives, yields economic benefits, and reduces the sum total of human suffering in our state.

Proposals to remove able-bodied adults from the AHCCCS rolls or fine Medicaid recipients if they go to the ER will increase uninsured and uncompensated care. These measures will only reverse Arizona's recent health care advances, and pull the rug out from under the neediest among us. We cannot afford to roll back the clock. Please keep up the good work and continue your support for Arizona's current Medicaid approach. Thank you for your consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 9:08:58 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen working in social services who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. The people I see every day through my work are struggling with health issues and the best way to treat them. This is complicated and difficult enough without the increased barriers to health insurance coverage.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: [Caution: Message contains Redirect URL content] Comment Regarding Arizona Section 1115 Waiver Request
Senate Bill 1092
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 5:33:53 PM

Monday, February 20, 2017

This is not an opinion, but a fact. Senate Bill 1092 will be devastating for not only the mental health community, but the entire State.

People depend on these services, and many cannot work at all. These provisions will not only deter healthcare, they will prevent it.

I am S.M.I. and I cannot live without the programs provided by the State. To take them away means no medication, no case manager, no support system.

Not only will this hurt those directly benefiting these services, they will devastate communities, and crime will go up as people become desperate.

Our jails are filled with those in need of mental health care. If we even think of diminishing services for others, the suicide rates will climb, crime will increase and violence will escalate.

To pass this bill is pass a death sentence for thousands of Arizonans. Everyone will be impacted by the fallout.

It is entirely possible preventable gun violence will increase, children at risk could perish and no one will be left untouched.

If you are not aware, ask me.

I have seen the faces of mental illness and I know firsthand the danger ignoring health care means.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: waiver
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 12:14:37 PM

Please don't take away our loved ones right when they are unable to work. I am my son's guardian. He is 22. I am hoping that one day he will be able to work. He has tried. He has too much anxiety to complete tasks, remember tasks, etc. He has no insight. I don't know if he will ever be able to work. Just because he is able bodied, he is brain is not!!!! These people already have to live on minimal amounts of money, food and mental health care. Don't take away anything else.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: [Caution: Message contains Redirect URL content] SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 20, 2017 9:32:14 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To:

[Public Input](#)

Date:

Sunday, February 19, 2017 3:49:54 PM

I oppose the Az legislature's request for a waiver. The request to limit Medicaid coverage hurts the poorest people in our state. It's mean-spirited and just plain wrong to kick people when they're already down.

Please don't approve the waiver request!.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, February 19, 2017 3:06:51 PM

What happens if you have a VA service-connected disability?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Saturday, February 18, 2017 1:34:49 PM

Dear Director Betlach:

I am writing this letter to express my concern regarding the upcoming SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal. While I understand that Arizona state legislation technically requires the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) to apply to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by March 30 of each year for this waiver, I am concerned that any actual implementation of changes to the state's Medicaid program as it currently stands will result in a fruitless and wasteful use of resources and money because we do not yet know what the federal mandate under the Trump administration will be going forward in terms of health insurance policy and law. It is not clear at this time what the repeal and replacement of the Affordable Care Act will entail. We have no specific information on what the new law will look like nor what state requirements will be. I urge you to hold off on making changes to Arizona's Medicaid program until the federal directive is more clear. Otherwise, this could very well result in overturning and unwinding newly implemented procedures and processes in order to comply with federal law when it passes at a later date. This would be a huge waste of state resources and taxpayers' money.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 11:02:36 PM

To whom it may concern,
I am opposed to the proposed 5-year lifetime limit and to the work requirement. I believe the people who are on AHCCCS have no other recourses and should not be deprived of healthcare.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 8:18:51 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

I am writing, as a long time resident of Arizona, in response to the proposed Medicaid waiver with its restrictions on certain individuals. Let me start by saying that I am grateful for this opportunity to comment because I believe that hearing from the public is crucial to ensuring that the final product reflects the 'combined wisdom' of all of us in AZ.

My main concern about the waiver is that it contains work and reporting requirements, and harsh consequences if either requirement is not met. Although on its face, these do not sound onerous, for an 'able bodied' adult to lose health care because they do not comply makes no sense!!! Poor health/health problems are often the reason that some adults are not working in the first place and such often lead to both physical and emotional/psychological conditions that interfere with a person's ability to 'follow through,' i.e., comply with reporting requirements.

Further, and most important 'punishing' people by removing their health care is both just plain 'mean' and, in the long term self defeating. Health care is not a 'reward' like getting a bonus in your paycheck or a ticket to a concert or a free meal in a restaurant. Health care, in my view, is and should be considered a RIGHT for every human being. Good health encourages people to seek work and retain a job, thus adding to AZ's prosperity.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input; azgov@azgov.com](#)
Subject: [Caution: Message contains Redirect URL content] Medicaid eligibility
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 6:40:08 PM

February 17, 2017

To whom it may concern;

I'm am a citizen of Arizona (District 7) and a registered voter.

I would like to ask that you do not seek federal permission to require “able-bodied” Medicaid recipients to either be employed or searching for a job while enrolled, or to cap lifetime eligibility for Medicaid at 5 years. I do not support any action to restrict Medicaid in any way.

Although I am not a Medicaid recipient and I have insurance through my work, I know that when people around me are healthier, I am healthier. Illnesses are more likely to be contained and epidemics less likely to spread. People are more likely to seek treatment. Further, healthier people are more likely to be able to contribute to stronger communities.

I am also ready and willing to put money and my vote towards a healthier Arizona.

Please consider these points as you move forward, and please do not take health care away from our people.

To: [Public Input; azgov@azgov.com](mailto:azgov@azgov.com)
Subject: Medicaid Eligibility
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 6:27:16 PM

February 17, 2017

To whom it may concern;

Thank you for your service to our state. I'm am a citizen of Arizona (District 7) and a registered voter.

I would like to ask that you do not seek federal permission to require “able-bodied” Medicaid recipients to either be employed or searching for a job while enrolled, or to cap lifetime eligibility for Medicaid at 5 years.

The reason I ask is, first, that its effect goes beyond those currently enrolled in Medicaid. A healthy population, with access to preventative care as well as necessary health care is healthier for everyone, and increases the number of people who are able to work—or otherwise contribute productively to our communities. Access to health care is a human right that is necessary for a thriving, prosperous Arizona.

Secondly, key effects of this waiver are still unknown—for example, how many Arizonans will lose their access to life-or-death health care. Additionally the context of this application, coming as Congress debates repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act (a move that could dramatically change Medicaid eligibility) puts too many folks in a Twilight Zone regarding their care.

To: [Public Input](#)
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 3:38:52 PM

Please do not reduce benefits to anyone on Medicaid.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 5 Year Limit to AHCCCS
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:34:36 PM

I have worked in the healthcare field for 30 years and do not support a 5 year limit on AHCCCS. The proposed bill shows a total lack of understanding around chronic illness and the devastation it causes in patients' lives.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: "able-bodied" adults
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:23:33 PM

I have heard that you are again considering a ban to "able-bodied" adults from AHCCCS. To do so again is short-sighted - it undermines access to care and puts an additional burden not only on emergency rooms but the general public who cannot get decent emergency room services because of crowded conditions.

It's also discriminatory - because you are childless - you won't be eligible?

Measures to improve public health and keep costs down are good to consider but not at the cost of dropping needy persons from it.

In my career, have worked with the elderly, the homeless, and the disabled to see the differences between a system that helps and hinders recovery or stabilization in the community.

I also have an adult son with an SMI diagnosis who had to move back in with me. His health conditions have so declined so that he may have 1 out of 7 days that he can function independently. He would not be successful at a system that requires him to work, school or train at this time. Using a 1-10 scale, he considers a day a 10 if he can get himself to his clinic for treatment. Yet based on the system the Governor desires, he would not be eligible for AHCCCS. I cannot add him to my health insurance because he is over 26 (and I'm close to being a senior citizen.) He has no income whatsoever.

Calling these cuts to AHCCCS as "incentives", creating copays and job requirements are not incentives - they are barriers to care for those who are in a dis-eased state.

Removing these adults will only cause an increase in the number of uninsured and uncared for - which will in turn increase the burden on our hospitals and in uncompensated care. It will only set us back further.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:09:45 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 2:09:06 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:11:50 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. Having worked as a domestic violence advocate at a shelter in Phoenix, I've seen first hand how vital Medicaid is in providing health care to our most vulnerable populations.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education. In my work at a domestic violence shelter, I saw the intersection of poverty and trauma and worry that these new restrictions may make it more difficult for victims of domestic violence to heal both physically and mentally from their trauma.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Senate Bill 1092
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 1:06:47 PM

Greetings,

I have worked as a Behavioral Therapist with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe Community for over 15 years. Due to their historical trauma and present day deaths, health issues and tragedies they are continually struggling for some semblance of normalcy in their lives. Research shows us that this TRAUMA affects the functioning of the brain and therefore the decisions and behaviors of these individuals. We cannot hold them to the same expectations and restrictions of the general population. Their healing process is slow but progressive and steady. But we cannot inflict more hardship on them with the restrictions of Senate Bill 1092. And it is not just the Yaqui People, but so many others.

I agree that some "take advantage of the system" but we cannot punish those who don't.

WE CAN FIND A COMPROMISE TO BETTER MONITOR THE USE OF THESE FUNDS WITHOUT SUCH UNFAIR, ACROSS THE BOARD, RESTRICTIONS.

Please consider the deep issues that affect so many people and how difficult it is for them to understand and comply with such a complicated system.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 12:20:25 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: leave it alone!
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 11:58:26 AM

Medicaid is working in AZ. Don't take adults off of it. Leave it alone.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Mental Health & Criminal Justice
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 11:01:08 AM

In public meetings I've attended we always hear the words crisis and prevention. We also always are reminded that the federal government cannot provide funds for those incarcerated. Yet if we want to reduce recidivism and keep our communities safe (one of the jobs of our government whose salaries we pay), not providing certain services in our county jails, we ensure our failure. When an individual is arrested for a misdemeanor, they are not provided with a lawyer. The county is also not going to prosecute. The population I am referencing here is an inmate with mental illness and or substance abuse and one who is poor and cannot make bail. As this individual sits in our county jails at a cost of over \$100 per day, without any case management and coordinated release from our behavioral health homes, the result is surely negative. Upon release and without a plan in place what happens more times than not is the next offense committed becomes a felony and prison at a cost of \$30,000 per year. Surely if we want to get serious about diversion programs prior to incarceration, there needs to be funding mechanisms to make this happen. The Sequential Intercept Model and the Stepping Up Initiative as being demonstrated throughout the Mental Health and Criminal Justice world is critical in assisting and making real positive change for this vulnerable population. Thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid/AHCCCS
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:59:03 AM

Please expand and improve Medicaid/AHCCCS in Arizona.
Do no penalize the unfortunate that can not and do not have access to medical insurance otherwise.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: FW: 2017 waiver
Date: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:03:46 AM

I am opposed to the 2017 waiver amendment to the AHCCS plan for the following reasons.

People with a diagnosis of SMI or developmentally disabled, may look able bodied but my son who lives with mental illness is not able to work, because he works daily just to keep himself well.

The medications he takes makes it difficult for him to keep a schedule. He has trouble remembering and following directions and the times he did work caused him to escalate his symptoms and needed to be hospitalized again.

My son though disabled deserves health care and there should not be any amendment that prevents him from getting the health care he needs. My son lives with SMI and the medications he takes have a lot of health risks and his blood needs to be checked for diabetes and heart disease.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid/AHCCCS
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 7:42:17 PM

The Governor desires to take all able bodied adults off the rolls of Medicaid/AHCCCS. There is an estimated 700,00 people this could effect. He also wants to punish Medicaid recipients monetarily if they go to the E.R.

If the Governor does this it will mean an increase of the uninsured and uncompensated care. Since Medicaid expansion uncompensated care has decreased greatly, and Arizona is one of the leading states for growth in healthcare.

Medicaid works and our government needs to expand and improve Medicaid. If the Governor makes these changes much will be lost.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on SB 1092
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 5:19:01 PM

On behalf of our family and our son who is SMI with a disability, our comment is **NO!**
Please **do not** pass this waiver proposal. This would be detrimental to our family.

Thank You

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SENATE BILL 1092
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:28:06 PM

Good afternoon!

As a parent of an adult son diagnosed SMI in 1996 and an active NAMI member for many years, I strongly object to the legislative requirement for AHCCCS to impose a 5-year lifetime limit and work requirement on certain AHCCCS beneficiaries.

I have expressed my feelings to my legislators as well.

This legislative requirement would create a terrible situation for our loved ones, be it to SMI groups or other disabled members of our society.

My son, diagnosed with Schizophrenia, has been able to work part-time for the past nine years. In the first couple of years, he was scheduled to work three days per week, but missed often at least one day of those three. He was then reduced to two days, and in most cases, that works for him.

However, the majority of people diagnosed with a disability are not that lucky....they may not be able to work at all, and most certainly should not be punished by not having medical care.

I am sure that all of us don't want to see our homeless society grow even larger, and our hospital emergency rooms filled with people who cannot get help anywhere else, which would be the direct cause of Senate Bill 1092.

Please reconsider this waiver.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 - waiver proposal
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:10:49 PM

Feb. 16, 2017

To Whom It May Concern,

As an Arizona resident, I am opposed to the 2 requirements being adopted by Arizona's Medicaid (AHCCCS). A 5-year lifetime limit on receiving AHCCCS would leave many people without access to healthcare and is a completely arbitrary limit. There are so many situations in which a person is in a position to buy health insurance but then some life event occurs and they get derailed. One of the most common is health problems. Many chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer, kidney disease may appear to be resolved and the patient returns to work, only to have that disease recur, or even develop a new disease. I am lucky to have private insurance but if I were limited to the 5 year lifetime limit being proposed, I would likely be dead. I began having medical issues in 2006. After two years of tests and consulting with several doctors, I was diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 2008. As I worked within the medical system to find answers, the doctors discovered that the myeloma had caused severe kidney damage. I received extensive chemotherapy, an autologous stem cell transplant in 2009 and continued chemotherapy maintenance throughout 2010. After I was declared to be in remission, I went on dialysis in 2010 and received a kidney transplant in May 2011. Everything seemed to be fine until my cancer recurred in May 2014, after which I went back on maintenance chemotherapy from June 2014-November 2015. Luckily, I am again in remission but my cancer could recur at any time and most likely will. If I were under the 5 year lifetime limit under AHCCCS, I would not be able to receive healthcare and would already be past the limit. People who are dependent upon AHCCCS should not be deprived of lifesaving healthcare.

The second requirement, the work requirement, would also keep many people from having access to medical care. This law exempts persons who are caring for children under 6, but there are families with special needs children that will be caring for them far long than 6 years or they may be caring for other family members, and are thus unable to work. Also, some people with recurring diseases may be unable to keep long term or full time jobs but don't qualify for disability. With government cash assistance tightly limited in Arizona, I doubt that many people are not working just so they can qualify for the ACA. The possibility of a few people misusing the system seems a far more humane option than not allowing huge numbers of the truly needy to qualify.

In summary, I am opposed to a lifetime limit on the number of years one can receive AHCCCS in Arizona and the requirement that all able bodies persons must be working or in school in order to qualify for AHCCCS in Arizona.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS and limit of 5 years - what are you thinking?
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 4:05:22 PM
Importance: High

I wanted to let you know that I am a family member of 6 people living with mental illness. If it were not for AHCCCS and the medical both physical and mental health that is provided to them under AHCCCS I fear that several of my family members would have killed themselves.

The costs of the mental health care and medications if much more than a family can afford and I thank God that AHCCCS was and is there for them.

I want to give you an example.

My family member that entered the system of AHCCCS at the age of 17 and is now 29 has had a major battle with his mental illness and due to the lack of insight for the first few years, the treatment was limited to what he would accept, and after that time when he accepted treatment and understood how important it was – we were on the road to recovery.

At this point he is not ready to leave his residential facility or the AHCCCS system as he has not reached recovery.

I would say to you that maybe he would have reached recovery and might be holding a job by now had everything gone well with the providers of the mental health services but it did not.

A RHBA change in 2014 – meant that everything basically came to a standstill while the new RHBA learned what to do and how to do it.

The fact the they cannot keep staff, doctors, nurses in the current clinic's makes things worse.

It is my understanding that there are not enough psychologist, psychiatrists, and nurses for Arizona or the United States.

So the people that suffer are those receiving services.

When a person has to go 4, 5, 6, months without a psychiatrist how do you expect them to get better?

The system has major issues and that is what needs to be addressed not cutting off AHCCCS after 5 years.

You need to address each case individually and consider what is happening and how it can be corrected.

Removing this family member from AHCCCS will certainly create so much stress and anxiety that he will more than likely become homeless since no one will allow him to live at their site if he is out of control.

Will more than likely end up hurting or killing himself due to the lack of medication and treatment – I am sure this solves the problem because now he is no longer on AHCCCS or SSI.

Or might end out becoming so psychotic that he does something that gets him arrested and ends up

in jail.

Now he becomes an expense of that system.

People can reach recovery

My niece has reached recovery in 2.5 years but the stress of her losing AHCCCS for her and her child are pushing her to the edge. Does she continue to work and not be able to afford the private health care for her and her child, or does she give up and end up in the system again?

Because AHCCCS was there for her for the last 7 years – she reached recovery in the last 2.5 years and is now working and paying taxes, and I pray she will be able to continue to maintain this.

Then we have my sister who after 11 years – made it to recovery and holds a full time job and no longer needs AHCCCS. She works and pays taxes

Then we have my other niece who reached recovery quickly in less than 3 years and was able to get off AHCCCS and went to work with private insurance.

Then we have my last sister – who has ended up in the VA system

Not on AHCCCS anymore but on VA insurance – she did not reach recovery, but did get full benefits through the VA and no longer on AHCCCS – this took 6 years to get there.

So you see Recovery is very possible and everyone is at a different level and pace. Trust me I have no desire for people to be on AHCCCS because I know it uses tax dollars and I have paid a lot of money into taxes, but if this is what it takes to help people that we need to do it.

We are the greatest country in the world and we are trying to treat our citizens into people who would have what a 3rd world country would provide – nothing.

Mental Illness is not like any other – the brain controls everything and if it does not work, what do you expect.

I say to you think about what you will be doing if AHCCCS is limited to 5 years. Look at each case, look at each person what are the circumstances?

Is that person able to recovery or will this be forever?

A person is able to do almost anything with the right services unless they are the rare exception which does happen.

So stop and think – if this was your family member – would you want them left out in the cold?

Would you want them to go without treatment?

We care more for our dogs than we do for our people.

We are responsible for the most vulnerable – and I am here to help you in any way I can, but think before you make major changes that affect the lives of our family members.

Thank you

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:36:45 PM

The proposed requirement for AHCCCS by the mentally ill population to work to be eligible for benefits is a horrible idea. Why do healthy, financially secure people want to take away from the least capable, most unable ones to fight back and defend themselves. Put yourself (or a loved one) in this minority's shoes. So many mentally ill people cannot work - they can barely get by as it is without help. Please do not do this.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 3:11:08 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

It was distressing to read that this proposal limits an individual's AHCCCS benefits to five years. Do you assume that in five years, an "able-bodied" AHCCCS recipient should be able to both obtain both a job *and* other health insurance? This is an optimistic and unrealistic assessment of the situation. *Some* AHCCCS recipients would be able to overcome the circumstances that led them to need AHCCCS, but many would not. Jobs available to this population often are part-time and/or do not offer health insurance. Job training would benefit some, but not all, of the population that takes advantage of it; there is no guarantee that the resulting employment would offer adequate or affordable insurance. Ultimately, people who are denied AHCCCS coverage would use hospital emergency rooms for their health care, driving up health care costs for everybody.

It is a desirable goal to have people reach a level of independence where they do not need to depend on the government to pay for their health insurance. However, there needs to be a safety net for those individuals who are unable to achieve this goal even with intention and effort.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Less bureaucracy, not more; Against Section 1115 Waiver Amendment
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 1:54:43 PM

The waiver amendment puts undue stress on an already stretched system. Who is going to implement the requirements of the waiver amendment? with what funds? and at what benefit to individuals as well as the public?

As someone who is self employed and whose children are currently covered by CHIP, I'm particularly concerned that the burden for reporting income on a monthly basis is short-sighted. Self employment income by its nature changes from month to month. Reporting more income in one month, then less in another could put children at risk of a lapse in coverage. I already experienced this applying for Marketplace Insurance when I moved to Arizona recently. The Marketplace forced my children's applications to go through AHCCCS because it appeared we would qualify for CHIP. After a lengthy application process, we were denied CHIP, and I struggled to get my children covered under my Marketplace plan to avoid a lapse in coverage. I expressed my concern about lapse of coverage but was told this is what community care clinics are for. Community care clinics may be an option for routine or urgent care, but not for chronic conditions which require specialist care, or emergent conditions (such as a car accident). My children could have easily fallen through the cracks.

For people whose income fluctuates, such as mine, reporting income on a monthly basis, with some months potentially slightly over the income limit, and others well under, I could see situations where folks qualify, then don't, then qualify, then don't...all this back and forth taxes an already stressed system. Who's going to do the extra work? Are more people going to be hired for the extra workload? Or are current workers going to be stretched even more thin? Who is going to fall through the cracks in terms of health insurance? And who will bear the brunt of people seeking emergency services rather than regular care from their primary care doctors during these lapses in coverage? These burdens and costs should be taken into consideration, and this waiver amendment should be denied.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: waiver to AHCCCS
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:28:00 AM

The legislative proposal to limit health care access to people in poverty is a bad idea. The costs that the ER runs up will be passed on to the taxpayer.

Two parent households will be hurt because neither one is the sole provider. Also a reason to reject the proposal.

There are many reasons to reject the proposal. I have listed only two.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Arizona 115 Waiver Impact on HIV+ Arizonans
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 11:05:22 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Some of the proposed AHCCCS changes will negatively affect access and the health of hundreds of the HIV+ Arizonans enrolled in AHCCCS, most of them Childless Adults. HIV/AIDS remains an incurable but now chronic disease if medical care and antiviral medications are continuously available. With such care, thousands of HIV+ Arizonans live productive lives and avoid Disability, though drug side effects such as fatigue and depression make continuous employment difficult for some to sustain. With medications, Positive folks can stay off permanent Disability, though perhaps not work permanently.

Further, as AHCCCS data already indicates, current HIV+ AHCCCS members have a notably high incidence of Co-occurring Behavioral Health conditions—48% of such Members have diagnosed Mental Health conditions and 39% have Substance Use Disorders. Recovery is achieved daily for some of the Members, but Relapse is not uncommon over time. And many Members will struggle with Dependency/Instability far beyond a 5-year enrollment limit.

A new study from the Kaiser Family Foundation, **“ACA Medicaid Expansion Drove Nationwide Increase in Health Coverage for People with HIV” Feb 2017**, finds that rolling back Medicaid expansion could significantly impact coverage for people with HIV. Nationwide, Medicaid coverage for people with HIV in care rose six percentage points between 2012 to 2014, when ACA coverage expansions took effect, the analysis finds. That increase was largely driven by states that expanded Medicaid, where Medicaid coverage rose by 12 percentage points over the same period. Those in Medicaid expansion states also saw the share of people with HIV who are uninsured drop from 13 percent to 7 percent. Arizona’s Medicaid Restoration under Gov. Jan Brewer certainly saved the health and lives of HIV+ Arizonans. Let us not reverse course now.

Nor is the medical/behavioral health care of vital importance solely to these individuals. Healthy Positive people cannot readily transmit the virus to others! HIV Treatment is HIV Prevention. With accessible and consistent medical and behavioral health care and HIV meds for all Positive persons, we can end AIDS. As you deliberate the future of AHCCCS, consider what a medical conquering of AIDS would mean for Arizona.

In conclusion, the two provisions of 1) required work participation for adults who are childless and 2) the five-year lifetime limit on able-bodied adults may well impede the medical care for many living with the life-long chronic disease of HIV. Might HIV+ Adults be considered in the class of exceptions for Physical and Mental Able-bodied?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: CMMS petition for waiver NO
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 10:46:09 AM

I am opposed to the adoption of both requirements to limit AHCCCS. Look around at people with Post Polio Syndrome, HIV-AIDS, MS -life time debilitating diseases. What about post traumatic bone, nerve, and muscle damage - chronic pain and paralysis? Then Schizophrenia, Manic- depressive disorder. This suffering spans a lifetime not just five years. These people did not choose to suffer. Who are we to deny them care.

The work requirement needs a clear definition of " able bodied" for all evaluating providers to follow. Otherwise, it makes no sense. It is arbitrary and unfair.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: No SB 1092
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:19:43 AM

Please we must choose our democracy to make our nation whole. Please do not pass SB 1092 your cause is our cause for the moments of time “ This can be our time.”

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on SB 1092
Date: Thursday, February 16, 2017 9:14:59 AM

On behalf of our family and our son who is SMI with a disability, our comment is **NO!** Please **do not** pass this waiver proposal. This would be detrimental to our family.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Limiting AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 8:37:12 PM

I believe that health care needs to be a public service, not a tool to be weilded by the governemnt to implent social or economic change. Limiting care for those in the most need is wrong. There are other more effective ways of creating self reliance and taking away a support of any kind is incredibly counter productive and counter to my moral compass.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to Medicaid/AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 6:09:44 PM

February 15, 2017

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the proposed changes from Senate Bill 1092. The five-year limit and work requirement may be a hardship for people with chronic illnesses or health challenges who may not be able to work all the time.

I am not affected by this bill personally, I am covered under private health insurance.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Changes to AHCCS
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3:45:11 PM

Hello,

I am writing today to urge you not to put more barriers up between people and health care. The proposed changes to Medicaid coverage are clearly designed to make it more difficult for those with mental health disabilities to continue receiving coverage.

Often, those who appear "able bodied" are in fact unable to hold a job due to a mental health disability. Many people with mental health disabilities have no paper trail that "proves" they are mentally disabled because they have been unable to get healthcare coverage (until recently). Because of this, they also find it difficult to get Social Security Disability payments from the Federal Government.

It's a game they can't win and the proposed changes to Medicaid in Arizona will only increase the number of people who are not getting needed services.

Destigmatizing mental health disabilities, in part by funding programs that help to treat them, IS A PUBLIC SAFETY ISSUE.

And, for those who really are just worried about fake sick people gaming the system, I invite them to consider how much money enforcing the proposed changes will require. Wouldn't that money be better spent on helping people?

I'm happy to contribute my hard earned dollars to support AHCCCS, a program that aids those in need. I don't want my tax dollars to go towards employing more State workers who will only be tasked with shaming people for needing help.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 2:29:45 PM

I urge the CMS to reject the waiver request. The Medicaid program is meant to provide health care, not to be a tool to change people's behavior. There are plenty of better ways to give people incentives to work and to be independent of government assistance. Threatening to take away their health care is a pretty cruel way to do it.

The waiver would put more families in more severe poverty, including thousands of children. Note that the exemption only applies to a sole caregiver of a child under 6 years of age. Two-parent families will especially be hurt because neither parent is a sole caregiver. Six-year-old children will be hurt when a parent loses health care and their illnesses are left untreated. People will die from illnesses that could easily be treated.

The waiver would also hurt Arizona's economy by reducing federal funds that support hospitals and clinics, and create jobs for health care workers in Arizona. Fewer people will receive non-emergency health care and more will go to the ER when they need urgent care. The costs of unreimbursed emergency care will be passed on to all of us.

For all these reasons, I urge the CMS to reject the waiver request.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver for adults
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 10:30:40 AM

I fully support Arizona's intent to limit Medicaid for able bodied adults. SB 1092 Weds to be approved.
As a nurse in Perinatal care, I am appalled that over 50% of American babies are born under Medicaid coverage.
While I agree with most of my colleagues that women and babies are vulnerable and that good prenatal care reduces complications and preterm birth, I believe that government interference in payments is INCREASING health care costs!!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: don't cut medicaid expansion
Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 7:47:53 AM

Do what is right for the people of Arizona. Trickle down economics has failed us for many decades now, corporate welfare doesn't work. Medicaid expansion is working, don't dismantle it, make it better.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Say No to lifetime limits and work requirements for AHCCCS recipients
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:52:13 PM

Feb. 14, 2017

To whom it may concern,

As an Arizona physician, I am opposed to the above 2 requirements being adopted by Arizona's Medicaid (AHCCCS).

A 5 year lifetime limit on receiving AHCCCS is arbitrary and would leave many people without access to healthcare. There are so many situations in which a person gets started on the road to being able to buy health insurance but then gets derailed. One of the most common is health problems. Many chronic diseases such as multiple sclerosis, cancer, heart disease may appear to be resolved and then the patient returns to work, only to be struck by that disease later, or unfortunately they may develop a new disease. I have had many patients who have multiple chronic diseases through no fault of their own. The other common problem that would make the 5 year limit difficult is that many people have only the skills for entry level jobs and are making low wages, or can only get part-time hours, and their employer doesn't even offer insurance. I believe these people are doing the best they are capable of - why deprive them of healthcare?

The second requirement, the work requirement, again would keep many people from having access to medical care. This law exempts persons who are caring for children under 6, but there are some families with special needs children that will be caring for them far longer than 6 years or they may be caring for other family members, and are thus unable to work. Also, some diseases have a waxing and waning course, making that patient unable to keep a long term, or full time job, but such that they don't qualify for disability. With government cash assistance tightly limited in Arizona, I doubt that many people are not working just so they can qualify for the ACA. And if a few unworthies slip through the cracks, that seems a far more humane option than not allowing huge numbers of the truly needy to qualify.

In summary, as a physician in Arizona, I am opposed to a lifetime limit on the number of years one can receive AHCCCS in Arizona and the requirement that all able bodied persons must be working or in school in order to qualify for AHCCCS in Arizona.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 1115 Waiver Comment
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:24:39 PM

February 14, 2017

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
Via Email: publicinput@azahcccs.gov

Dear Mr. Betlach,

As an Arizona resident, who has during the past 8 years assisted people enrolling in AHCCCS and KidsCare, I am writing to comment on the SB 1092 required 1115 waiver.

My comments appear below each of the four main provisions of the waiver:

- The requirement for all able-bodied adults (ABA) to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job training program.

- o Do all ABA have equal access to employment and job training programs across Arizona? This requirement could inappropriately and disproportionately exclude my generation from AHCCCS eligibility. Many “baby boomers” provide care for elderly spouses, siblings, adult children or parents. Parents of any age who are care givers for special needs children, above the age of six, could also be denied AHCCCS eligibility. There appears to be no exclusion to the ABA requirement if someone is caring for an adult family member, this must be corrected.

- o This provision also appears to be “anti-family”, because it assumes that both adults in a marriage must be working, looking for work or going to school. It appears a parent with a seven year old child could be denied coverage for home schooling children and managing a household, if the family income does not exclude AHCCCS eligibility.

- o Additional defined exclusions to the ABA requirement are needed to improve equal treatment of deserving consumers and support Arizona’s strong family values.

- The requirement for able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.

- o As a tax payer, I want to know what this monthly requirement will cost the state budget. One can assume that a new system to collect, collate and verify this information will be expensive. Having worked with AHCCCS members and low-income populations I have observed significant issues with accessing phones and online systems and understanding requirements can be highly variable. What evidence does AHCCCS have that data collection systems will provide universal access for AHCCCS members and be effective in meeting this requirement?

- o While AHCCCS attempts to make information accessible to Arizonans who speak different languages, information, phone systems and online portals are available in only a few languages other than English. Assuring all AHCCCS members will be able to understand this requirement and communicate with AHCCCS in their preferred language will add cost to new

systems that will be needed to implement this provision.

o As a tax payer, who strongly supports equal access to governmental systems, I question the return on the large investment that will be required to effectively implement and manage this monthly verification provision. What evidence can AHCCCS offer to reassure me that my taxes will be used wisely and provide demonstrable value to Arizonans?

- The authority for AHCCCS to ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

o As someone who has worked with AHCCCS members during the childless adult freeze and helped to develop the “Don’t Get Dropped” campaign to educate AHCCCS member of the importance of renewing on time or facing new consequences, I anticipate a large number of AHCCCS members will be banned for one year. Based on experience and data collected during AHCCCS enrollments, a large percentage of AHCCCS applicants had no more than six years of formal education and a majority had no more than nine years. Implementing this and the three other requirements will require consumer education resources that AHCCCS does not appear to have resources to offer. Lacking strong outreach and education programs and the resources to develop and implement these programs will result in members being needlessly denied coverage.

o The health and economic consequences of the one year ban may be significant. Parents that lose coverage are more likely to drop children’s coverage or fail to make medical appointments for covered children. Parents and children will likely avoid cost-effective primary care and then seek emergent care when treatable conditions become more serious. This will lead to increased use of expensive treatments and a decrease in lower-cost high value care. Hospitals will likely see an increase in uncompensated care, Federally Qualified Health Centers may see an increase in sliding fee scale patients, which will stress limited federal funding.

o From the perspective of a healthcare provider, this ban will cause an increase in difficult patient-relations encounters. The consumer appearing for an appointment may not know or understand they are no longer covered and each provider will have to manage consumers (one at a time) who need or want care but have no means of paying for the medical service. Will this cause more providers to refuse to accept AHCCCS, will it add to the demand on emergency departments or FQHC’s? Will it lead to an increase in acuity when these consumer finally seek care?

- The authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years except for certain circumstances.

o This requirement is an administrative ‘nightmare’! Does AHCCCS or the state of Arizona have the human and capital resources to track cumulative AHCCCS membership over a lifetime? This requirement will have the effect of requiring an accurate, active and searchable datable with information that could span nearly 100 years. What time increment will be used to determine the five years; will it be months, weeks or days? The question is not rhetorical, because the answer could impact a person’s treatment or life. As a tax payer, there are better uses of my money that will actually improve the quality of life and health in Arizona.

o Several questions appear to be unanswered which could impact an AHCCCS member's life. If a member is in the middle of a lifesaving treatment (chemotherapy) and they cross the five year limit, what happens? Will they get an extension, lose coverage, declare bankruptcy or die?

The cost of developing and implementing the systems required to manage monthly status and income checks, the proposed lock-out period and life time limit will require additional resources and may have negative health and economic impact on consumers, the state budget and healthcare providers. One must ask, what is the return Arizona can expect from this very large investment? Implementation of the SB 1092 driven 1115 waiver provisions appear to be premature. As an Arizona, tax payer and potential AHCCCS member, I (and all Arizonans) deserve to see the data and facts regarding the costs and benefits of these proposed changes. No evidence has been offered by AHCCCS or the legislature to justify this expense, understand the benefits and need for putting the lives of low income Arizonans at risk.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: comments on SB 1092 legislative directive waiver proposal
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:25:29 PM

As a front-line healthcare provider for people without insurance, I see the struggles these people face daily, and our system of safety-net and charity care is unable to fully meet their needs. Evidence shows that people without health insurance are more likely to die than those with insurance, and when they seek medical care, they are sicker. Many have chronic, controllable diseases, but without insurance, they are unable to access the basic services needed to manage their illnesses. Instead of working, contributing to society, and paying taxes, many are struggling to live day to day while managing poor health without assistance. They struggle to work and support themselves and their families, and their health deteriorates further.

Erecting further barriers to care will not ultimately save money or improve outcomes; it is a short-sighted solution that will only increase suffering for already struggling citizens. My patients who cannot afford to buy private insurance and who do not have the the option of employer-sponsored insurance need access to routine healthcare. Rules requiring onerous documentation and capping coverage will unduly burden citizens who are poor and sick and prevent people in need from accessing services. Our state should seek to increase access to the kind of basic, high-value health services, especially primary care, that prevent expensive medical catastrophies. Placing further limitations on AHCCCS eligibility is the opposite, encouraging people to wait until they have no choice but to utilize emergency services, which is more costly and less effective.

I strongly oppose the SB1092 waiver.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Don't punish poor people on AHCCCS
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:30:51 AM

Dear Gov. Ducey:

I am against co-pays and limits to able-bodied adults in poverty who need their AHCCCS coverage. Please do not further punish poor people in Arizona. Many of them work full-time but do not get employer provided health insurance. Maybe they work 2 or 3 part time jobs.

We elected you to help take care of our most vulnerable residents, not just those who have plenty.

Please reconsider the waiver you are asking for.

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To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: comments regarding proposed 1115 Waiver
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 9:34:37 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

While I applaud the effort to encourage all able-bodied adults in Arizona to seek employment and/or education for their own sense of purpose and accomplishment, I am deeply concerned about the provisions stated in this waiver and urge you to substantially change and/or eliminate many of them due to unintended consequences both for the state's economy as well as the health of its population.

- 1) The "able-bodied" provisions will have the unintended consequence of leading more Arizonans to apply for disability in order to ensure that they have steady access to health care. While many patients with chronic diseases cannot do some types of jobs, they are often able with time and training and job availability to transition into others. The fear of the stringency of this waiver will push more patients to seek disability.
- 2) The obligation to verify on a monthly basis difficult to compile data such as family income, employment data for all family members, and job search data for all family members is exceedingly onerous, particularly since the very nature of these people's economic situation is such that stable salary and benefits are rare in this state at that socioeconomic level. The work is often piece-meal and varies from week to week, making it difficult and time consuming to compile and track in an accurate way.
- 3) The ban for 1 year for not immediately reporting or reporting inaccurately family income is draconian, especially since as I have noted above, the economic situation in this state for those at the bottom of the income ladder is structured in a very chaotic way for hourly work that varies from day to day, week to week and thus includes no benefits. It will also be a book-keeping nightmare for the state to keep track of all the data that its citizens are required to submit for this process, adding unnecessary administrative costs with no beneficial health outcome.
- 4) A limit of 5-years on AHCCCS belies a complete lack of understanding of the economic and jobs climate in Arizona in which a relatively small percent of employers offer affordable health insurance benefits. The majority of people on Medicaid are employed and yet neither are offered affordable insurance through their employers nor make enough money to rise above the poverty level. It is scandalous that the state would further punish these people by threatening to deprive them of the right to basic health care as well.

The net effect of these changes will be to push people back to the extremes of health care cost and outcome. By reducing access to health care early in the continuum of health and wellness, the clear outcome will be more uncompensated and catastrophic care in the hospitals and subspecialists' offices. We've witnessed this first hand already, please don't repeat the same mistakes.

Sincerely and in wishes for good health,

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Please do not impose a 5-year limit or and Work Requirement on the Seriously Mentally Ill Population
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:32:07 PM

I am requesting that you do not impose a 5-year limit and Work Requirement on the SMI population. Although people may look able bodied, the debilitating disorders that effect the mind and brain of those suffering prohibit them from working in an optimum, successful and continuous way. As a mother of an individual living with two of these SMI illnesses, I can attest to the fact that these are generally long-term illnesses . We need to recognize that this population will always need support systems in place to help protect them and assist them in living the best life they can. To place limits on the benefits they receive would be detrimental to their overall health.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Removal of able bodied adults from Medicaid ---- Do not do it!!!!!!!
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:30:54 PM

Please do not remove able bodied adults from Medicaid. When they do get ill (and some will get ill) you know where they will end up; yep the most expensive part of the medical system : **the Emergency Room**. You also know who ends paying up for those high charges the hospitals and their paying patients (the insurance companies do not pay it, since they pass the cost via increased premiums and or higher deductibles). For a state that wants to attract industry, this short sighted thinking is not going to impress companies who want to control medical costs.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: definition of Able bodied
Date: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:30:49 AM

In reading through the legislative proposal of a cap for individuals with mental health documentation and classification through the health care system, I find it disturbing to have to justify what able bodied means and is interpreted for the benefit of cost-containment.

As the parent of an adult child with disabilities, this cost containment proposal would allow my adult child with disabilities (mental health, cognitive disabilities, etc.) to be unable to have the medical care needed to help her function as minimally as she is capable of doing.

Supportive employment is the best option for our adult children and that is typically sporadic, disintegrated with the typical constraints of competitive employment, and clearly not accessible to a population of adults who have no access to transportation on a regular basis and no constancy in their lives to maintain any level of employability over extended periods of time.

I am not only the parent of an adult child with disabilities, I am also a transition coordinator and job developer for adults with disabilities and clearly this proposal is not a viable option for this population of adults who have so much going against them to begin with.

Cost containment needs to be put aside, consideration of the medical and psychological needs of this population need to be addressed at a much higher level than has been in the past. By redirecting funds away from this population that you deem to be "able bodied" you will see an acceleration of homelessness, increased medical and emotional needs and a dysfunctional state that parents once again will be forced to deal with on individual levels.

Please think about the ramifications of this proposal, think about the community's perception of adult children with any kind of disability and then think about what parents already are forced to do for their adult children, the constant overseeing of their housing, medical and psychiatric needs and most importantly the financial components to help them maintain a semblance of normalcy to their lives.

Able bodied- I don't think so!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:31:05 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Cutting Medicaid
Date: Saturday, February 11, 2017 12:21:27 AM

I am a registered republican in Arizona and 8 vote. I am writing you now to vote against limiting Medicaid to a five year period for individuals. This one size fits all legislation would be severely harmful to people, who do not a one size fits all approach. Generally, I think that able bodied people of sound mind should study, work or look for work, however, but do not think that social workers-- or doctors-- can be tasked with the responsibility of determining who is send of mind or able bodied.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 1115 Waiver Comments
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 2:20:30 PM

Dear AHCCCS Director and Governor Ducey,

As a long-time Arizona physician providing primary and specialty care to persons living with HIV/AIDS I am troubled by the proposed by the State. I feel these proposals are poorly conceived and will result is significant harm to the State and its citizens.

My first concern is as regards the use of an undefined term “able bodied”. I do not know how this is defined and who will be tasked with making this determination. A serious proposal would better define the terms critical to its implementation.

I heard a legislator state that the goal of these proposals is stated to be to encourage people to get off entitlement programs and back into the marketplace but with the rollback of the ACA and the strong likelihood that pre-existing conditions will again be allowed to prevent persons with HIV from obtaining insurance it seems the actual results of the proposals will be to simply make health care unobtainable for a significant proportion of Arizonan’s.

I am also concerned is about the time-limit placed on AHCCCS enrollment. In my work caring for persons living with HIV/AIDS it is pretty clear that the treatment of HIV-infection (and many other illnesses) cannot be limited to 5 years. HIV is a life-long condition that requires medications and medical care for life. Long-term engagement in effective treatment of HIV keeps people healthy and able to participate in the work force. Treatment of HIV is also a public health measure in that persons who are on treatment cannot transmit HIV to others. The proposed policy will result in persons going on and off treatment which will make them sicker, increase the risks of transmission and a rise in the numbers of infections AND encourage the development of resistant HIV which will be more expensive and difficult to treat.

There are many lessons to be learned from the HIV epidemic and chief among them is that is less costly to keep people healthy than it is to allow them to get sick the proposal as written will only serve to perversely incentivize persons with serious medical illness to get and stay sick and thus not “able bodied”.

I urge reconsideration and rejection of this proposal.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Able-Bodied does not equal Able
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 9:12:34 AM

Hello,

I just wanted to chime in on a potential factor that is not being considered. "Able-bodied" neglects several other factors that influence an individual's ability to get a job. Some include mentally disabilities like intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders that make someone very difficult to work with sometimes but not all the time, depression and bipolar disorder which can cause someone to be fired for poor attendance, being a registered sex offender which eliminates many possible employment opportunities (and this is permanent in the state of AZ), as well as having a felony record for either a weapons related, violence related, or drug related charge which all create a huge obstacle to employment. While it is not impossible to find employment for people with any of these factors, and I support the idea of encouraging self-sufficiency, but having more than one of these factors can make employment increasingly difficult and with no guarantee of continuous employment.

Also, for the people who are in remote rural areas with very little industry or enough local employment to support their community, commuting long distances is the solution that is not possible for the individuals who do not have their own transportation. This creates yet another real obstacle for many in the state of Arizona. I think that it is important to look closely at the specific challenges of people in the entire state, which is huge and has many remote and rural areas, before you make such a broad and sweeping policy which may make health care impossible after the five year limit has been reached.

I have worked in Globe, Casa Grande, Phoenix, Mesa, on the Gila River Indian Community's reservation, and now in the town of Guadalupe with the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and have seen how all races of people who are below the federal poverty guidelines rely on services through AHCCCS. I even remember the time when the childless adults were being denied AHCCCS for a similar rationale as this new law. The result was an overuse of hospital emergency rooms that went uncompensated and cost those hospitals millions of dollars and some of them to shut down. This is the eventuality of what will probably happen when many people reach this five year limit.

There are people who have long term medical, emotional, and societal issues that have no simple solutions. Denying them healthcare will only worsen the health of the impoverished who will then increase the chances of rippling out to worsen the health and safety of the general public. If you don't give the poor a cost effective way to get their basic needs met then they are forced to resort to the illegal means of raising money to get those same needs met. And if you do the math on that, you will see that it will always cost the state more money to police, arrest, jail, detain, prosecute, and house those who break the law than it will to provide them the services to help keep them from having to resort to finding a way to survive by any means necessary. This is what I have seen in the 14 years of providing behavioral health services to those who are on AHCCCS.

Please consider all of this when developing a way to implement the new law.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: CMS
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 8:51:37 AM

Families sometimes need someone to stay home due to daycare fees can't afford them. And what do you consider an able body? What about mental illness. Please reconsider everything before you put his in place. I work with community in a reservation and poverty is high even with two household incomes and insurance premiums are being raised all the time.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:48:34 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 10, 2017 12:48:24 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Strongly opposed to changes in AHCCCS
Date: Thursday, February 9, 2017 1:40:12 PM

I am strongly opposed to the proposed changes in AHCCCS which would impose a work requirement and a 5 year life-time limit on receiving benefits. Caregivers, especially female caregivers, will be unfairly impacted by this proposed change in AZ regulations.

A number of caregivers in my Tucson Caregiver Support Group, sponsored by Pima Council On Aging, have quit work to take care of aging parents or other loved ones who require extensive or full-time care, but who have limited or no funds.

Often they give up their jobs to do this, frequently in the middle of careers. It is very difficult for many, especially older women, to re-enter the job market after years of absence. Caregivers are also at high risk of illness and/or injury themselves because of the stress and lack of help involved in caring for their loved ones.

I am fortunate have to adequate assets, but many of my friends in our group do not. They provide years of love and difficult care to our most vulnerable populations at no direct cost to the State of Arizona. To shut them out of health care for themselves is disgusting.

I urge Gov. Ducey and the state to withdraw these proposals. I believe the federal government should deny the proposed changes.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 - exception to maximum AHCCCS Coverage
Date: Wednesday, February 8, 2017 6:58:04 AM

You have proposed to limit AHCCCS coverage for able-bodied adults to 5 years, with an exception for adults who are full-time caregivers to children under 6.

This exception should be broadened to include the full-time caregiver of a child who meets the DDD criteria, or a parent or other older adult. It is a tremendous cost-savings to the state when a family member provides full-time care to their disabled child, and/or their parent with Alzheimer's Disease or other condition that results in their inability to care for themselves. That caregiver parent or child, who has given up the opportunity to have gainful employment, should be able to continue their health coverage through AHCCCS. This is far less expensive than requiring that caregiver to obtain an outside job, and applying for ALTCS for the disabled child or parent.

I welcome the opportunity to discuss this further.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: do not restrict Medicaid coverage
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 5:05:49 PM

Efforts to restrict Medicaid funding will be counterproductive.

Experience in Hawaii shows Medicaid spending is the most efficient way to remedy homelessness:
Arizona must not move backward!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: opinion of Medicaid
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 3:38:41 PM

Hello legislators and government officials,

I am writing this email to show how incensed I am at your attempts to limit AHCCCS (Medicaid) to our needy Arizonans. I am aware that a quarter of Arizona rely on this program. Although that is sad, I think it would be sadder still to deny the offerings of this program to people who need it. Further, I oppose your desire to put a five year limit on people's ability to receive this help. If they do not get the help they need, they will struggle even more to keep above the poverty line. As far as the imposition of work requirements, will you be offering stipends for childcare for the parents that need this for their children? If not, are you expecting them to leave their children alone while they go to work? What are your plans for this? If someone is disabled and can't work, what are your plans for helping with their disability?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid eligibility
Date: Tuesday, February 7, 2017 10:00:11 AM

My concern is with the health of the public at large.

Granting a waiver to AHCCCS would deny too many individuals the availability of regular health care. This will result in too many chronic conditions worsening as people will be forced to ignore early warning signs major illnesses. This will create a burden on the health care system as well as the state of Arizona as a whole.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Tightening Medicaid
Date: Monday, February 6, 2017 5:04:20 PM

To the Arizona Medicaid Agency,

I am a RN Case Manager and have worked in a major medical center in Phoenix for 17 years. When Arizona removed all childless adults from Medicaid/AHCCCS there was a great strain on the health care system. Medicaid expansion has brought relief and now you want to remove a large number of Arizonans off Medicaid. This will have the same effect as when childless adults were removed from AHCCCS.

During the period when childless adults were removed from AHCCCS, the state legislator decided that the ER at the local hospital is the fall back program for these types of people. The amount of uncompensated debt to the hospitals rose dramatically. An estimated 700,000 adults will be dis-enrolled from AHCCCS, that is a lot of people and some of them will be sick. Again are the hospitals supposed to take on the debt burden to care for these people?

The hospitals banded together and found a way to pay the State of Arizona's portion of Medicaid and Governor Brewer said yes to Medicaid expansion. The Goldwater Institute, who is looking out for the state of Arizona says this is an illegal tax. I would like to ask where was the Goldwater institute looking out for our healthcare system interests when the state removed all of these adults from Medicaid. It was a financial disaster.

Since Medicaid expansion Arizona's uninsured rate has dropped from 17.3% in 2009 to 10.8 in 2015, this is the 13th biggest drop in the nation during this time period.

The fear that jobs will be lost did not materialize. Arizona Ranks 5th for healthcare employment growth since 2014. Arizona is one of the leaders in health care jobs created. This has been the biggest driver in employment growth during the 2009-2015 period. This all coincides with the impact of the ACA other wise known as Obamacare and while I am at it Arizona Medicaid is the same thing as AHCCCS. I don't believe there are any alternative facts here. I am using the Arizona Republic as my source for this letter.

Arizona hospitals report stronger finances and are pumping millions of dollars into the state's economy. The Tax money spent is returned to the community. During 2014 to 2016 uncompensated care dropped from \$746 million to \$395 million.

Governor Ducey wants to punish Medicaid recipients for visiting the ER. I agree it a great burden for hospitals to have overtaxed emergency rooms. But the way to keep them out is not by financial punishment, they will still come to the ER and the the hospital will carry the burden of the cost of care. Remember there are EMTALA laws. With Medicaid expansion clinics like the Mountain Park Clinic have expanded there employees to over 300 in the past 3 years. They are also building a larger clinic and this will bring more jobs and tax revenue. Medicaid expansion is working, Obamacare/ACA is working.

State legislators have state supported health insurance and as of 2015 25 Of the 30 state senators and 45 Of the 60 representatives receive subsidies to help pay for their health

insurance. The state has paid 8 million dollars to subsidize these people. Their insurance premiums were from \$12 to \$25 every two weeks. Yet these same legislators continue to weaken Medicaid/AHCCCS. These legislators should be offered the same package as the rest of us. They don't even work full time at the job and still qualify for all these benefits, my employer doesn't offer that.

Do what is right for the people of Arizona. Trickle down economics has failed us for many decades now, corporate welfare doesn't work. Medicaid expansion is working, don't dismantle it, make it better.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Work Provision
Date: Monday, February 6, 2017 9:52:11 AM

The Medicaid bill that AZ state legislators are introducing to federal legislators will leave too many adults in Arizona without health insurance. I do not believe this legislation is positive for Arizonans in the long run. The poor of our state need our assistance, and providing them healthcare during a transition stage until they can obtain their own is necessary for the long term success of Arizona.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, February 6, 2017 8:59:38 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, February 5, 2017 4:49:24 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, February 5, 2017 3:55:46 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

I do appreciate it that you are allowing the public to comment on the proposed Medicaid waiver. we have been encouraging many people to speak out and let their concerns been hear. I am a someone who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program directly impact Arizona's health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While some aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove to be of limited benefit to some Arizonans, I oppose the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. We both know that that health should be considered human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals.

AHCCCS provides a needed safety net for many poor and underserved people in our community, who struggle with barriers to finding work and furthering their education. Adding harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 - public comment
Date: Saturday, February 4, 2017 8:40:21 PM

It would be a terrible idea to restrict AHCCCS, particularly to institute a five-year limit. A person might be out of work, in a job that doesn't provide health insurance, in school, or a combination of these things for more than five years, based on the ups and downs of the state's economy and the health of companies and industries. This new policy would waste more money on bureaucracy than on providing a basic form of health insurance to people.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 4:07:16 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:46:35 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, February 3, 2017 10:22:05 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: NO on SB1092
Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 1:00:43 PM

The last paragraph of your summary of this disastrous bill is almost indecipherable, with its poor grammar, missing words, and misplaced phrases:

*Senate Bill 1092 was passed during the First Regular Session of 2015. The legislation **requires requiring** the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) **to apply the Center** for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) by March 30 of each year **for a waiver or amendments** to the current Section 1115 **Waiver** to allow the State to implement new eligibility requirements for "able-bodied adults".*

Nevertheless, I was able to see that what this bill proposes makes even less sense than the paragraph noted. Only the most short-sighted, greedy individuals would even consider such a bill.

- * It will result in thousands of people who are the most vulnerable, being left without any health care after only 5 years... if they are able to even get it for that long.
- * No bill can adequately define "able-bodied". Therefore, that term will be interpreted differently by different bureaucrats and will result in gross discrimination against some, while favoring others.
- * It is extremely difficult for even highly qualified individuals who are financially well-off to find another job, when they are laid off, so it is insanity to expect people who are living in, or on the edge of poverty, to be able to obtain employment.
- * It is even more insane to expect those who are not only poor, but are also needing health care (which means they probably have some illness or injury that needs medical attention) to be able to find and hold a job.
- * This bill makes no fiscal sense either. It will result in even more bureaucracy in order to "watchdog" these poor people, thus using even more of the tax payers' money to administer the funds needed by the poor people AHCCCS is "supposed" to be serving.

NO! NO! NO! This inane bill should have been scrapped long ago. Its authors should have been voted out, and its current proponents should themselves, be forbidden any health insurance, other than coverage through AHCCCS... WITH THE CHANGES THEY PROPOSE.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment about SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 4:41:50 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to ask questions and give my opinion about the proposed waiver.

I agree with many of the concerns already brought up at the forums and in the media. My greatest concern, however, is about who is considered able-bodied as it applies to mentally ill and disabled people.

In Section VI.A of the draft, persons who have a "temporary or long-term disability" appear to be exempt from the work requirement and the five year limit. It is unclear to me about what is the precise definition that will be used to decide who is mentally or psychiatric disabled:

1. Is it only the diagnosis of SMI as determined by a psychiatrist?
2. or do the adults have gone through the SSI Disability process and be receiving payments from Social Security?
3. what if they were eligible for Division of Developmental Disability as minor? does that make them eligible now? what if they were diagnosed as MR in special education while as a minor?

My concern is that many of adults that I know that need AHCCCS services are unable to work, even if they want to, because they are mentally ill, mostly diagnosed with schizophrenia and related illness. Not all of them have completed the process to receive SSI Disability. If they do not have AHCCCS or lose it, they will end up at the emergency room needing service.

My observations are based on the mentally ill adult I saw during my 32 years working as a MSW case manager at state Child Protective Services (now Department of Child Safety) in Pima County and those I see now was a member of the Supreme Court Foster Care Review Board in Pima County. I was also licensed therapist in Arizona (LCSW) for almost 20 years.

My suggestion is that the draft define more precisely and more specifically who is disabled, especially in cases of mental and psychiatric disability.

Thank you!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comments regarding SB 1092
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 1:01:01 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am strongly against the changes to Arizona's Medicaid system. Arizona has a high poverty rate and the lack of good paying jobs in most communities, excluding Phoenix (Maricopa County), is extreme.

Arizona was the last state to get a Medicaid program and is the only state to have these types of restrictions on the program. Neither of these facts are things to be proud of as they show the lack of care, compassion and respect for people of all levels of economic levels.

Limiting coverage to 5 years and having employment restrictions are tantamount to murder. If someone has been diagnosed with a serious health condition that can not pay for care and their coverage cut off at 5 years they could die. If someone is unable to work, look for work, participate in job training or be enrolled in school because they are ill or they have a family member that is ill and they are the sole caregiver they should not loose coverage. The examples of how these restrictions are inhumane, unchristian, punitive, degrading and cruel are infinite.

Arizona needs to care for all of its residents which include vulnerable people not just the most wealthy. Just because someone is unemployed, poor and / or ill does not make them any less valuable to society than someone who is employed, wealthy and healthy. These things do not make someone a criminal. Health care is not a partisan issue. Healthcare is a measure of a society's humanity and how they value each other.

Arizona needs to stop demonizing people who need assistance.

Do not initiate the restrictions proposed by SB 1092.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed restrictions on AHCCCS
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 9:26:25 AM

As a citizen of Arizona (Flagstaff 86004). I wanted to get on the record as being opposed to the proposed restrictions to AHCCCS currently being proposed. I am not currently using the Medicaid program, but I have friends with chronic illnesses who depend on this for health care. Those of us who don't have employer-provider insurance are constantly being punished by restrictions such as this. In my current town of Flagstaff, full time permanent employment is a luxury that many strive to achieve, but if they are elderly or have a chronic illness often get overlooked Please do not go forward with this waiver.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: No on Medicaid limits
Date: Tuesday, January 31, 2017 8:29:54 AM

I am encouraging that there are no further limits on Medicaid. Medicaid is a life saving check on the poorest of our state. Many who have to be on Medicaid already work, but have such low paying jobs that they cannot support their families. And sometimes they live in a place where there just isn't a lot of work available (such as the reservation). Additionally they are the sole caretakers of elderly or their children. This is an undo burden on people who are already struggling to survive.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:49:10 PM

AHCCCS ADMINISTRATION:

I do not think it would be in the best interest of anybody to deny medical care to anyone living in the US, and especially those with a limited income that are currently on AHCCCS. Every single person deserves to have medical care.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: re: Please Don't Harm AHCCCS
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 10:04:20 PM

Hello-

I have been on AHCCCS ever since graduating from the University of Arizona a year ago. I have been working extremely hard on finding a full-time job all over the country. In the past year I have put out 100+ applications and by all measures and standards I am considered an excellent candidate. But the market around the country is currently abysmal.

I am currently teaching at a community college and I do some freelance work on the side.

AHCCCS health care has been EXTREMELY important to me during this time while I deal with medical issues beyond the norm. I am very grateful for this care and feel very fortunate to live in a state that is able to provide me with coverage until I can get the proper full-time employment and/or have enough freelance/adjunct income to afford my own healthcare.

Beyond my experience, I have seen this program help out so many people in need that otherwise would be in great peril.

All to say, I hope that any proposed changes will not sacrifice any aspects of this great program or the people it's able to assist.

Thank you for considering these thoughts.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS MEDICAID
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 1:40:29 PM

Greetings,

I've read the new proposed requirements for AHCCCS Medicaid services, and I know without a doubt that the implementation of these requirements would be DISASTROUS for Arizonans, especially rural Arizonans and young people who are underemployed, as jobs that pay a living wage are sparse in many communities in AZ. Many underemployed, low-wage workers in AZ would never be able to afford insurance without assistance, meaning if you cap the Medicaid limit at 5 years, after those 5 years are up many young and poor Arizonans simply won't be able to afford insurance and will go without. Implementing these requirements would also require the state to hire more employees to handle the extra paperwork and logistics involved in implementing the new rules. Stop wasting taxpayer money on more paperwork and just provide Arizonans in need with healthcare. These requirements will inevitably lead to a large number of uninsured Arizonans which will just cause more problems and waste more taxpayer money.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 12:17:11 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Monday, January 30, 2017 11:56:49 AM

Greetings,

I've read the new proposed requirements for AHCCCS Medicaid services, and I know without a doubt that the implementation of these requirements would be DISASTROUS for Arizonans, especially rural Arizonans and young people who are underemployed, as jobs that pay a living wage are sparse in many communities in AZ. Many underemployed, low-wage workers in AZ would never be able to afford insurance without assistance, meaning if you cap the Medicaid limit at 5 years, after those 5 years are up many young and poor Arizonans simply won't be able to afford insurance and will go without. Implementing these requirements would also require the state to hire more employees to handle the extra paperwork and logistics involved in implementing the new rules. Stop wasting taxpayer money on more paperwork and just provide Arizonans in need with healthcare. These requirements will inevitably lead to a large number of uninsured Arizonans which will just cause more problems and waste more taxpayer money.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017 7:17:30 AM

As a resident taxpayer of Arizona and having studied this bill, I fully support the passage and implementation of this legislation. This bill will ease the burden on taxpayers.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Oppose Proposed SB1092 Waiver
Date: Saturday, January 28, 2017 6:30:03 AM

Health care coverage for our most vulnerable citizens is not only immoral but financially short cited. AHCCCS administration knows very well that the alternative to health care coverage is to use urgent and emergency care services that are more expensive and often result in greater lifetime health care costs. AHCCCS is a cost-containment model that was designed to emphasize wellness and prevention.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017 5:13:39 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to express my significant concern over the proposed SB 1092. As a children's healthcare provider, I am particularly concerned about the potential secondary effects that this bill would have on the health of families and caregivers. It is well known that there is a direct correlation between a child's health status and the health of their family and/or caregivers. By placing the proposed limits on access to healthcare services for adults, this legislation may also put our states most vulnerable children at risk for poor health outcomes. Given recent federal measures to revise our health system, children are likely already at risk for decreased access to quality healthcare if these measures are to pass. With this proposed legislation, I fear that our states most vulnerable children will be more greatly affected through the combination of changes. Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017 4:26:56 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS PROPOSED CHANGES
Date: Monday, January 23, 2017 3:41:49 PM

Just a quick note to show support for the proposed changes to the ahcccs'

Requiring able bodied citizens to get off of the "dole" and quit assuming that people who ARE working will support them for the rest of their life is a fine idea and should be supported by each and every tax payer. I do not believe that "health care is a human right". There are too many items in today's world that are considered human rights for anyone who would rather sit on their backsides and let everyone else provide them with what they consider are their right to let government support them for the rest of their life.

Earn your own way through life...

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2017 11:56:01 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Sunday, January 22, 2017 11:52:12 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2017 6:51:57 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I'm concerned about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

The creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. This is not a hand up but a slap down.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Personal Opinion
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2017 11:13:06 AM

Hello,

My name is Andrew Tillery. I recently read an article in Mohave Daily News about the possible change in how often submissions and renewals will have to be submitted to keep medical, and government coverage. I am very much opposed to this. I already have to pull my teeth out every 6 months to prove I am a hard working person, who can't make ends meet. It takes weeks for that renewal to be approved. If this bill passes then I will have to submit paperwork just about every other week. Please reject this bill.

Residence and Citizen of Bullhead City, AZ

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comments on information on SB1092 waiver
Date: Saturday, January 21, 2017 10:13:26 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

In regards to Strategic Co-insurance

- Co-Insurance:
 - Up to 3% of annual household income

If a member makes 50 dollars more than the cut off to be applicable for AHCCCS – you are going to charge them 3% of their total income? *Seems overly burdensome*

Co-Insurance Required

- Opioids, except cancer and terminal illness (\$4)
 - Non-Emergency use of ED (\$8)
 - Specialist services without PCP referral (\$5-10)
 - Brand name drugs when generic available unless physician determines generic ineffective (\$4)
1. So if the member breaks his leg and cannot work – you are going to charge him for his pain meds. If someone is working but has chronic pain – or has sickle cell disease – you are going to charge them for their pain meds.
 2. Specialist services without PCP referral- how do you plan on operationalizing this???
 3. *With AHCCCS rebates and the requirement to use BRAND drugs – why would you also be charging the member? How is the provider to know who to prescribe the brand for and whom to prescribe the generic for???*

- **AHCCCS CARE Account balance is returned to**

members that transition out of AHCCCS and into private coverage

What if they transition out and elect to have NO coverage?

Thank you

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 11:05:48 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 10:55:05 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 10:52:17 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen, educator, social worker, and former employee of AHCCCS, who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 9:49:03 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 9:24:32 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

I am grateful that you are allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid (AHCCCS) program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I am quite concerned about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 20, 2017 9:14:38 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2017 6:54:51 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. My letter is a personal one.

I waited 38 years to have my knees replaced. At 29 I was told I had the knees of a 50 year old, but shortly after the diagnosis I left my full-time employment and insurance to work as a freelancer. My girlfriend and I had no insurance, but when we got married a few years later we felt we should at least have a plan with a high deductible to avoid the risk of our families having to take care of us if something happened. We maintained a policy, changing insurers to save money, but the cost of the policies over the years kept climbing and our ability to be able to pay for insurance sent us into debt we still can't get out of. Note that for what we could afford, our deductible was so high we really never used it. It was there just in case, and I knew even when I got to the age where the surgery could be done, we couldn't afford the deductible or co-pays to proceed.

Getting Medicaid coverage(after the ACA and Marketplace said we were in the income level where AHCCCS/Medicaid would cover us)has enabled us to not fall further into debt as a result of insurance costs. We are not out of the woods, but we are not spiraling down either, as we were and would be if we had to go back to individual insurance.

My wife and I are both working poor. I work three jobs(two part-time and my freelance work), my wife works 18 hours a day in her freelance work. We don't have much, we don't add to our debt with getting new stuff. We pay our bills and our self-employment tax and try to keep ahead of paying down the debt we got into before we got Medicaid.

Like I said at the beginning, I had to wait until I was 50 to start the replacement surgery, but it wasn't until I was 58 that, with Medicaid, I was able to have the replacements done. I simply could not have done it financially otherwise. I now walk without excruciating pain, I can be more productive and work more. I certainly hope our income level will rise enough to get off Medicaid, but there's nothing I'm seeing that will be that large an income boost. We work, we try to hold down as many expenses as we can, but without Medicaid/AHCCCS we would be heading again to further debt. Limiting this coverage to 5 years will put us into insurance debt again, or go with no insurance.

A basic right should be to be healthy, and if your income level makes it impossible to pay health insurance, help should be available. Setting up barriers to health by limiting the years working poor can apply isn't a wise step for our economy, as more will use emergency services and/or lose their health. Having monthly statements of income is an onerous request, mostly to shame people who are poor enough to receive help. Our income is measured over the year, with bad months and good months that still add up yearly to being eligible. Would the same hold true if a

good month was focused on with a terrible month to follow?

I could have sent you the template letter you're probably getting in droves, but I felt I needed to personalize it. I urge you to not add to the waiver the directives you've received that would change the current policy and coverage with the new restrictions.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 19, 2017 12:35:15 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 12:26:48 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 11:01:14 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 10:15:29 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 8:26:24 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 8:03:43 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

I do not believe that persons that suffer with Serious Mental Illnesses such as: Schizophrenia, Schizo-effective or Bipolar can be limited to a 5-year cap. These are lifelong conditions and persons are not likely to be cured in 5 years. Persons that have medical conditions such as diabetes or kidney disease do not have caps on their disabilities. I find this waiver is punitive to those suffering from serious mental illness.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Positive Feedback
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 7:23:25 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

I received an email from Protecting Arizona's Family Coalition, to which I STRONGLY DISAGREE.

I believe the changes of reporting and seeking work are reasonable, as is the 5 year lifetime limit for able-bodied adults.

The penalty for NON reporting is also reasonable.

I do not believe that providing services indefinitely without responsibility and effort affects self-sufficiency in ANY way other than to make it less possible.

My heart goes out to the system that has to deal with these people and their warped sense of rights and entitlements.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 5 years is unacceptable
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 2:35:13 AM

Hi.

My name is Virginia Johnson.

I am sending you this comment because I have been on ahccs before twice for a period longer than 5 years.

About 2 years ago I hurt my back and was unable to medically support myself.

I had employer sponsored health care prior to my injury. I ended up not being able to work due to a back injury and eventually needed surgery.

There is absolutely no way I would have been able to afford health care for my family or for my surgery with out ahccs.

I was in ahccs for about 3 years.

Ahccs was a life saver to me and my family!

I am now back at work and I appreciate ahccs so much!

Ahccs is the reason I am gainfully employed.

I make a good salary and the loss of my employment was devastating but with out ahccs I would have been in dire straights for a very long time. I am so thankful for the coverage az ahccs has given me.

I was covered for 3 years. I am a healthy adult who works very hard for my family. Ahccs is a safety net that I really needed.

It was be so detrimental if that was available for only 5 years. It took me 3 years from start to finish to recover from my back injury. Should the need ever arise again I would like to know I have the ability to overcome life's major set backs.

Thanks

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 18, 2017 12:11:59 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 8:45:34 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 8:26:07 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 7:34:43 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Proposed Changes
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 6:10:55 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 5:01:56 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 4:56:39 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 4:40:50 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 4:10:31 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 3:54:00 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

I am a recipient of Medicaid. I received my Master's from ASU in May of 2016 and have not been able to find a job in my field yet. Since I am unemployed, I had to sign up for Medicaid. Please do not take Medicaid away from me. Please do not take Medicaid away from people who are in poverty, unable to work, or unemployed.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment for consideration on SB 1092
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 3:32:38 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned citizen who works in the health care industry, I know how important medical coverage can be to a person. It affects their ability to seek a job, keep a job, and provide for themselves and or their family.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the 5 year lifetime cap. Who can predict when misfortune can happen to any of us or how long it can last? It could be a one-time short experience or it could happen multiple times over someone's lifetime. I am all for those who can work to seek it and/or have it, but in this day and age, economic uncertainty is there for any of us. We are one accident, one job loss or one diagnosis away from needing assistance.

I would hope that we have more of a heart than for just 5 years over the course of someone's life! Please re-consider the effects of this life-time cap for the most unfortunate of those among us. There but for the grace of God, you or I could find ourselves.

Thank you for considering our state's unfortunate citizens and guiding our Medicaid system toward a reasonable policy for Arizona.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 3:13:02 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

I have been reading and hearing on the news about the proposed Medicaid waiver that AHCCCS is considering request from the federal government. First let me say that I applaud your request for public comments that I think will help you to understand the sentiments of many Arizonans and perhaps some of the situations you may not have considered in drafting the proposed waiver.

I am a long time AZ resident and voter, a retired state employee and someone who has seen first hand the amazingly positive impact of the AHCCCS system on two of my close relatives. By having health care available, my older sister (who is now deceased) was able to have her basic health care needs met on a regular basis, which greatly improved her quality of life!! And my oldest daughter has been able to have mammograms, pap smears, necessary blood work etc. In both instances, AHCCCS services meant that emergency room visits were no longer necessary and problems could be identified and treated quickly and inexpensively before they became major health crises.

And of course this leads to my major point, which is: AHCCCS benefits all Arizonans and saves money for all of us taxpayers (by reducing emergency room visits and the escalation of minor health issues into major very expensive ones), as well as ensuring a healthier environment for everyone – because when we are all out in public, no one wants to be in contact with, served by etc. someone who is sick because they cannot afford adequate health care.

My main concern about the proposed Medicaid waiver is the restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that AHCCCS provides help address poverty, which often is caused by health issues, that then exacerbate attempts to obtain and retain work or an education. And I do not think that the harsh punishments being proposed for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines is necessary and certainly not helpful. People living in poverty already face enough stress just surviving; to add stress by punishing them when/if they miss a reporting deadline makes it even harder for them to move out of poverty.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 3:00:38 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's health system and health outcomes of millions of people in our state. I am especially concerned about those in the early years and those most vulnerable at every age.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: WAIVER COMMENT
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:26:34 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Planned Parenthood is both a service provider and advocate for the hundreds of thousands of patients we serve annually. We are concerned with the health and well being of our patients and their families and the impact of your proposed regulations.

While undoubtedly drafted with the best intentions, we are particularly concerned with proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. In a service economy like the one Arizona has, it is incredibly difficult to simply work one's way out of poverty. Our more than a decade of experience with time limits and work requirements involved in welfare reform have proven this. Adults working full time may not earn a living wage and therefore are forced to rely on government programs.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency. Re-establishing eligibility every 30 days seems like a system more concerned with disqualifying participants than with meaningful transition to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and we wish you well in constructing and maintaining a safety net that is efficient and responsive to taxpayers as well as beneficial to those who must rely on it for survival.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:26:10 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:15:55 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. **I have worked with this population, and a one-size-fits-all "punishment-oriented" regime seems to indicate a lack of understanding of the barriers to self-sufficiency that many of these people face. The deadlines being proposed will simply not be meetable by many of adults due to factors much more complex than what many seem content to label "laziness". I would hope there will be an attempt by legislators to learn about those factors.**

I see access to adequate health care as a human right; healthy adults are more likely to be able to work, upgrade their education, etc. Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. "Critical" is not an overstatement.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:13:02 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes that this is the direction that we need to take.

AHCCCS is not a right but a privilege to assist those who truly need it - not those who take it for granted and depend on the state to cover their every need. There is nothing wrong with making sure able-bodied adults are contributing to the good of society while maintaining assistance for those who really need it.

Please DO NOT buckle under and give blanket approval for any and all for AHCCCS. Provide for those who need it and make those who are able but unwilling to work for it do just that - work for it. Deadlines exist for everything and if they really need the support, they should be willing to demonstrate the need for it.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:07:30 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, January 17, 2017 2:04:34 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. I am a concerned citizen who strongly believes the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 8:30:42 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal - Public Comment.
Date: Monday, January 16, 2017 7:14:40 PM

This proposal is harmful to many!

- The purpose of AHCCCS is to cover medical needs, not stage a demonstration to put people to work. You have forgotten its PURPOSE.
- Lifetime limits and work requirements undermine access to care and do not support the objectives of the [Medicaid] program. Work and education opportunities are not always available, not easy to qualify for, especially in rural areas, and where there are insufficient public transportation services as well.
- Lifetime limits would disproportionately affect older adults, young parents, parents of children with disabilities, and newly injured or sick folks who need care, but are denied due to prior years' coverage.
- Some people cannot work even though their medical condition hasn't risen to documented disability levels, or hasn't been sufficiently diagnosed. Especially those who have behavioral health conditions. The existing Behavioral health system is insufficient. Having a behavioral health diagnosis may not be "evidence" enough that a person cannot work, it's not defined enough in this Waiver.
- This is especially egregious in rural areas.
- What constitutes as work, is there a minimum number of hours, or wage? If I babysit for someone for 4 hours, is that work sufficient? Some people work for others, not for an employer, i.e. people who have a hard time gaining employment because of other reasons, criminal backgrounds, appearance, discrimination, etc.
- Work requirements are likely to result in a loss of health coverage, with little or no gain in long-term employment; and with Obamacare under fire, you will have more emergency room and similar issues, so not only are they sick, now they are fined and without help! Kick them while they are down, why don't you!
- Threats to insurance coverage could lead to more bankrupt families, delayed care, and more uncompensated care.
- Implementing work requirements could be a significant cost to Arizona. Tracking all this MONTHLY will be a horrendous and expensive task – the systems are not set up for this.
- Accurately defining "able-bodied" is a significant challenge and risks imposing requirements on individuals who a) may be ill and unable to work, yet don't qualify for disability, or b) forgo work to care for a disabled loved one or a child over the age of 7 due to medical issues. Sure, just make it harder on parents. Not everyone can afford child care! So a young single parent should work for \$10 when child care costs between \$8 – 12 an hour?

That is wrong!!!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 4:54:29 PM

I am against SB1092 and would hope that this does not go into affect. While those who receive AHCCCS insurance should have to contribute something to the cost of their care, this is going to ultimately damage our healthcare system in the long run. What will happen once they eat up their 5 years of coverage and then they become elderly and disabled? They no longer will be eligible for coverage because they have used up their ability to have AHCCCS/ALTCS because they used up their 5 years of eligibility? What about the family that has 2 parents with small children. One parent is working and the other parent is staying at home to care for the children. Say all of the children are school aged, but the parent that stayed home is no longer able to find work? What happens to her? Sorry...you can't be covered because you are considered "able bodied" but since you cant find work you are axed out of the healthcare system.

Heaven forbid someone who has worked their entire life, loses their job, cannot afford to pay for cobra, spends down everything they have and they have nothing left, gets sick and because they can't find work, and are considered "able bodied" but they still can't find work...they are not eligible for AHCCCS, and then they rack up huge medical bills because they get sick??

I cannot support this. As someone who has worked in the medical profession and mental health profession my entire life I cannot support this. I cannot support something that is going to not only damage our healthcare system, but it is going to tear our state to pieces because we have a Governor and a legislature that isn't working for our citizens....its just worried about the dollar and not the people that they are truly supposed to be working for.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: 1115 Wavier Program - comments
Date: Sunday, January 15, 2017 10:18:57 AM

I believe that this waiver project is very ill conceived and should be abandoned. First is the definition of able-bodied. A person who is legally able-bodied might still not be able to do a certain or any work because s/he has an undiagnosed condition, or a rare condition, or a mental condition that does not allow the person to participate in the labor force.

Second, just because a person is "able-bodied" does not mean they are either mentally capable of working or have any talents or skills that can be utilized. Our education system is among the worst in the nation so we should not be surprised that we have drop outs and graduates who can't read, write or use a computer - a near requirement for the most basic jobs today.

Third, there may not be any jobs that the particular person can do. Legion are the stories of people looking for ages, putting out 100 or 200 applications and still not getting a job. Discrimination - race, gender, age, sexual orientation (not even illegal in AZ) - can play a huge role in prohibiting a person from being hired through no fault of their own.

Fourth, the low pay may make it impossible for the person to work and survive. Public transportation is very poor in the metro areas and non-existent in the rural areas. So it's expensive and/time consuming to get to work. If a person has to have a car, then that's expensive not to mention insurance.

If the pay is so low, as most is in AZ, then how will the person pay for child care if that is needed? What if the person is caring for children or an elderly family member? What if the pay knocks them off public insurance? They can't afford to get private that's for sure. We have the legion of people working for Walmart subsidized by public funds for insurance and food stamps because Walmart reaps billions and refuses to pay a living wage - so the taxpayer subsidizes a huge, wealthy corporation - that's corporate welfare which we should end immediately.

For many reasons, this rule is ill conceived and is only going to harm AZ citizens and should be scrapped.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 8:25:35 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

I know of many people with medical marijuana cards that can afford to buy marijuana every month, my brother for one spends a \$1000 a month on marijuana, but can't afford to pay for insurance or health care. He gets better medical care and more benefits for free than I do with my Medicare plan that I pay for. I worked all my life to be able to get benefits. He didn't work and lived with my mother for the past 20 years with her supporting him until he finally went on SSI. The entire time he was heavily addicted to marijuana with my Mother enabling him, even paying for it for him until her recent death. It isn't right for those of us that have worked all our lives and are responsible adults needing healthcare for people to abuse the system. He is my brother and I love him but what he is doing is wrong and there are many like him doing the same thing. Anyone and I say anyone can get a medical marijuana card. Why can't they afford healthcare insurance at least then?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Saturday, January 14, 2017 10:05:04 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

The following expresses my concerns in much more diplomatic language than I would be able to muster on my own because I'm so sick and tired of the constant drumbeat of proposed policies that assume the poor are just malingering instead of struggling every day to make ends meet. Enough already!

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 4:08:25 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 3:04:30 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:35:59 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 12:25:40 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Let me start by thanking you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

How will these new requirements affect those who are not working due to injury but have no disability or health insurance? Or are in the process of applying for disability? Before the medicaid expansion, individuals who experienced major health events often lost their jobs along with their health insurance which was tied to them. Without health insurance they could not treat, fix or otherwise resolve these health issues resulting in the only option being to apply for SSI/SSDI. What plan will be in place to help individuals suffering from illness or injuries preventing work, but who are not yet on Medicare or SSI/SSDI? It sounds like if they don't work they will lose access to healthcare, removing the possibility of resolving their issues and returning to a living wage job. If they DO work, they risk their application for disability being rejected and will be subjected to low wages, inconsistent employment due to health, and possibly remaining uninsured since their new job opportunities will be severely limited and likely not include affordable insurance options. PLEASE make sure any decisions for policy changes addresses this segment of our population.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 11:45:54 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 10:50:51 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 10:35:45 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Ultimately, we all lose when access to healthcare is restricted, especially to lower income persons. The result of exclusions (which include onerous and difficult application and paperwork), is to drive up long term healthcare costs and reduce the capacity of this portion of the population to meaningfully contribute to our overall wellness as a state.

It certainly seems that “able bodied” adults should provide for their care; however, in our changing world, many adults lack the ability to perform work that is capable of supporting their needs. Much of this is due to the extreme demands placed on single mothers and the tendency of employers to offer marginal, benefit limited, part-time positions to unskilled workers.

Mental illness also affects many adults who appear otherwise “able”. Many persons who experience a challenging mental disorder will recover if provided with support and treatment. This includes many persons who illness is not rated as “serious” based on SMI status requirements.

Be generous. Support kindness. Strive to improve the lot of those in need.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 10:24:56 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:26:58 AM

Dear Mr. Betlach,

I first want to thank you for all you have done for AHCCCS and the many individuals that depend on the medical and mental health services provided for our most vulnerable citizens. We have crossed paths numerous times over the years as we work to serve our citizens. I know the challenges that I face running a small non-profit organization often keep me awake at night. I can only imagine the tremendous pressure that you must endure. You have my utmost respect.

I have an adult son in the system that lives with multiple mental health and medical challenges. He has been designated SMI and is on SSI with the Title XIX benefits. It has taken years for him to reach a level of stability, that is at best tenuous. I believe that most of the citizens that are truly disabled, such as my son, will continue to receive adequate services. My concern is for many of the individuals that NAMI encounters, who receive general mental and medical health services. They by definition may be considered "able bodied," although I have not seen a working definition of that term.

I fear that many of these individuals, that receive basic mental health services that are keeping them stable, will lose this benefit under the CMS waiver proposal. This would create unimaginable physical, mental and financial hardships on this population and their families. The punitive nature of capped terms, and difficult reporting regulations, will inevitably drive them to high priced and inefficient ER care. This situation will ultimately increase the costs to the state in regards to uncompensated medical costs incurred by the acute care medical providers.

Over the past several years, we have all worked many long hours to create a system of integrated care that just recently has taken form and is beginning to show positive results in terms of cost savings and improvement in the quality of life for many of the recipients. It seems counter-intuitive to entertain actions that could unravel all the great work that we have all advocated for, the past several years.

This year we face many uncertainties in health care funding from the federal level that may ultimately impact our state funding of these services. The extent of that impact at this point is unknown. I encourage the administration to thoroughly consider the impact on the individuals that will be effected. I feel that a rubber stamp of these proposed directives would not be in the best interest of all concerned. I would suggest that an incremental plan be proposed that will periodically assess the impact, financially and from a quality of life perspective be considered.

In closing, I appreciate the efforts of all those at AHCCCS that truly care about the quality of care provided to the residents of our state. I would be honored to serve on any committees or focus groups that will assist in guiding the department to continue to provide the best possible health care for our most vulnerable population.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 10:24:56 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 10:21:36 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 8:32:30 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 8:31:35 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 7:38:54 AM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Friday, January 13, 2017 1:26:58 AM

Dear Mr. Betlach,

I first want to thank you for all you have done for AHCCCS and the many individuals that depend on the medical and mental health services provided for our most vulnerable citizens. We have crossed paths numerous times over the years as we work to serve our citizens. I know the challenges that I face running a small non-profit organization often keep me awake at night. I can only imagine the tremendous pressure that you must endure. You have my utmost respect.

I have an adult son in the system that lives with multiple mental health and medical challenges. He has been designated SMI and is on SSI with the Title XIX benefits. It has taken years for him to reach a level of stability, that is at best tenuous. I believe that most of the citizens that are truly disabled, such as my son, will continue to receive adequate services. My concern is for many of the individuals that NAMI encounters, who receive general mental and medical health services. They by definition may be considered "able bodied," although I have not seen a working definition of that term.

I fear that many of these individuals, that receive basic mental health services that are keeping them stable, will lose this benefit under the CMS waiver proposal. This would create unimaginable physical, mental and financial hardships on this population and their families. The punitive nature of capped terms, and difficult reporting regulations, will inevitably drive them to high priced and inefficient ER care. This situation will ultimately increase the costs to the state in regards to uncompensated medical costs incurred by the acute care medical providers.

Over the past several years, we have all worked many long hours to create a system of integrated care that just recently has taken form and is beginning to show positive results in terms of cost savings and improvement in the quality of life for many of the recipients. It seems counter-intuitive to entertain actions that could unravel all the great work that we have all advocated for, the past several years.

This year we face many uncertainties in health care funding from the federal level that may ultimately impact our state funding of these services. The extent of that impact at this point is unknown. I encourage the administration to thoroughly consider the impact on the individuals that will be effected. I feel that a rubber stamp of these proposed directives would not be in the best interest of all concerned. I would suggest that an incremental plan be proposed that will periodically assess the impact, financially and from a quality of life perspective be considered.

In closing, I appreciate the efforts of all those at AHCCCS that truly care about the quality of care provided to the residents of our state. I would be honored to serve on any committees or focus groups that will assist in guiding the department to continue to provide the best possible health care for our most vulnerable population.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 9:58:19 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Public comment
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 9:39:45 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver.

The proposed criteria is a move in the right direction.

Accountability and responsibility for our "able-bodied" AHCCCS recipients is a positive step forward. Providing verification and following through on eligibility requirements is not too much to ask for.

If you want to utilize this benefit then the recipient needs to validate the need. This should be viewed and treated like a "benefit" and not an "entitlement".

Time limits are also a move in the right direction. We have recipients that need some motivation to work towards self-sufficiency.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:59:33 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 5:05:26 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. Working in the disability field for over 35 years has made me acutely aware of the value of AHCCCS to Arizona as a cost effective, health care delivery system that is as good as any employer based health plan or better!

As an organization that services Arizonans that have chronic illness and disabilities in Arizona, we, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. When it comes to lifestyle chronic conditions and communicable diseases, refusing healthcare to anyone, threatens everyone.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, we must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. We believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. The definition of "able-bodied" is restrictive to the reality that people are in various stages of health and may or may not fall into the strict definition agencies like Social Security use. AHCCCS provides healthcare that can prevent more serious chronic illness and disability and can stabilize individuals so that they can pursue work at some point in the future.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty that may have cognitive, mental health and functional issues that have not been recognized as a "disability" and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:54:40 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:51:26 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

PERSONAL NOTE: As a veteran community activist (19 years) who lives on a low income budget (religious reasons) in West Phoenix and over 1,000 home visits for people seeking rent & utility assistance, I would like to offer the following thoughts:

1. Provision should be made for those who are unemployed disabled and not yet receiving SSID and/or Medicare

2. *Monthly income verification is an overreach and an administrative issue; suggests 6 months*

3. *Retain dental care for children and for Kids Care--means far less costly care for the child as a young adult & beyond*

4. *Eligibility should be for those certified as physically and/or mentally unable to work*

5. *The real need is for higher incomes through the Strengthening Families program (administered by Phoenix for Maryvale and Mesa) funded by the Dept. of Labor and thru more workforce development funds in the Arizona Commerce Authority tied to new and expanding economic development projects targeted for working poor and poor communities. This will lead to substantial cuts in Food Stamps & AHCCCS, but this should be also done by the federal government and/or the US Governor's Association to avoid mass migration to AZ*

6. *Remember that many if not the majority of people on Food Stamps and AHCCCS are working, but need the extra help because of low wages and poor insurance coverage in AZ, keeping them below poverty income.*

7. *The number one need is higher paying jobs for the working poor and poor following appropriate workforce development time. The working poor and poor WANT to work contrary to this administration's view, but want a decent opportunity given poverty from day one in our Nation (taking of Native American lands; Slavery; Jim Crow, and discrimination and prejudice against all minorities which continues in AZ and the US to this day.*

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:51:08 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:26:36 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: *88 SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:17:40 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

It is also my belief that these proposed restrictions will result in unnecessary work and processes which have the potential to create barriers for streamlining reliable and affordable healthcare for not only Medicaid recipients, but also providers.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 4:06:11 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:46:59 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:35:25 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid

program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:33:48 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan and former AHCCCS employee, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:29:08 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:22:33 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state. No one should be forced to not have health coverage.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. Further it is not clear how "able bodied" is defined. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education. You know as well as I that people who have incomes a tad over the cut off limit do not have the resources to get health care in any other way except by showing up in emergency rooms when their health deteriorates to emergency level, at which point they would not be able to work anyway.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet burdensome reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

I pray you consider our state's poor and guide our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans. I would be most happy to forego some roundabouts if the monies could be used to shore up the health system!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:21:29 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:20:27 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver.

As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:14:11 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 3:03:03 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid

program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, January 12, 2017 2:51:39 PM

Dear Director Betlach,

Thank you for allowing the public to provide commentary on the proposed Medicaid waiver. As a concerned Arizonan, I strongly believe the direction of our state's Medicaid program influences Arizona's overall health system and the health outcomes of millions of people in our state.

While many aspects of the Medicaid waiver may prove beneficial to Arizonans, I must express concern about the proposed restrictions on "Able-Bodied" adults. I believe that health is a human right, and that Medicaid provides a critical lifeline to low-income individuals. AHCCCS provides relief from the uncertainty of poverty, which we know has more tangled roots than simply a lack of work or education.

Similarly, the creation of harsh punishments for those who fail to meet reporting deadlines penalizes those living in poverty and creates additional barriers to self-sufficiency.

Thank you for considering our state's poor and guiding our Medicaid system toward sustainable policy solutions that will benefit all Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Changes to AHCCS
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 10:05:31 PM

I hardly know where to begin. I am a 56 year old self employed individual who pays taxes every year despite the fact that I live below the poverty level; however I believe it is my duty to contribute to the benefits that I enjoy as a citizen of this country. I am currently enrolled in AHCCS and cannot afford to purchase insurance otherwise. I spent two and a half years caring for a terminally ill sister and ran through essentially everything I had in savings. In a concerted effort to keep my personal costs down, I generally forgo routine check ups and only use this benefit when genuinely needed.

With the current administration intently focused on repealing ACA, where in the world do our elected officials think people like me will get health care when they need it? My heart breaks for the direction our country and often, this state, is taking. I wake up in fear thinking that if this legislation passes and my health deteriorates, what am I to do? Go buy a gun, (which is so adamantly supported by our legislature) and just kill myself? Is that what we're coming to?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on SB1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Thursday, March 30, 2017 3:10:11 PM

I am a resident of Arizona. I just retired from 30 years of employment at El Rio Community Health Center, one of the main safety net providers in Pima County. I oppose the authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for able-bodied adults to five years. This will result in fewer people having Medicaid coverage and will consequently place a large burden on safety net providers to provide affordable care to the most disadvantaged members of the community. It will also force individuals who are kicked off of Medicaid after the five year limit to seek care in more expensive settings such as Emergency Rooms. Furthermore, the requirement for able bodied adults to verify compliance with work requirements and family income on a monthly basis is a huge burden for the working poor and will result in more people losing coverage. I totally oppose this waiver proposal.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 Comments
Date: Friday, March 17, 2017 6:49:10 PM

I'm completely opposed to all provisions in this bill.

This is very dangerous legislation targeting the poor and sick yet again. Who will determine who is "able bodied"? It opens the door for unqualified persons passing judgment on others with devastating effects. Further, it leaves Seniors, many of whom have dementia with no physical impairment but significant mental impairment, vulnerable and would be a disaster. It is simply cruel.

The vast majority of Medicaid recipients truly need it. They should not be punished for this feeble attempt to rid a handful of those who take advantage of it. Not worth pursuing this heavy handed, cruel measure.

Do not implement SB1092.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:52:23 AM

I do not support imposing a work requirement on Medicaid recipients or a 5 year limit on enrollment for able bodied participants. People who need medical care should receive it. This will cause people seeking care in emergency rooms, a very expensive option. It will impact our most needy and poor people. We must provide medical care to all of the people in our state.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 9:36:06 PM

I am writing to voice my opposition to limiting medical benefits to a finite number of years. In my experience people use the services as needed. They are not abused. To limit services fails to comprehend how life works when one is poor.

I am also opposed to work requirements. People who are needy are often involved with other services and would be working if they could. Unfortunately low income people have higher rates of job instability and lower wages that subjects them to be the working poor. Those who are unable to work often have other issues that complicate their situation such as family members who require care or they have lack of transportation.

Please do not add these requirements. It would be a mistake.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Arizona Medicaid Waiver
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 3:34:51 PM

Please DENY Arizona's medicaid waiver application.

NO on the work requirement as written.
NO on the 5 year life-time limit

One example of a person that would be unfairly treated.
Adult that is unable to work, is not a caregiver, and has chosen not to accept disability payments or has been wrongly denied or hasn't the mental capacity or contacts to properly apply or has a disability not recognized by the government.

Another.
An able-bodied working adult that is unable to earn more than 138% of the FPL.

I believe everyone should have access to healthcare and that everyone collectively should pay for it. (Fire Services, Police Services, Public Schools, Roads, Military, Health Care, at the least these)

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal - Constituent Comment
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 1:30:12 PM

I am writing this letter as a constituent, concerned mother and guardian of an adult classified as SMI in the behavioral health system and who has a cognitive disability which also qualifies him for services under the Division of Developmental Disabilities and he also has the ALTCS entitlement.

I become concerned when I see legislation move forward that does not have clarity or add unnecessary burdens that can result in either eligibility or a loss of a benefit for a vulnerable population such as individuals with disabilities. The term "able - bodied adults" as outlined below and throughout the bill is not clearly defined and can have dire effects for individuals who are moving towards their highest functioning level, but may never be able to care for themselves independently. I personally feel this level of oversight can be disruptive and interfere with an individuals process of growth due to the lack of clarity on what this means and the level of burden that it creates for individuals and their families/supports who help them on a regular and often times daily basis.

As a mother and guardian of an adult that requires a high level of support and encouragement to help him through his daily routines and to also help him reach his highest functioning levels on a daily basis. Our family member reaching his fullest abilities is more important for us and our son than anyone else, however it takes time and sometimes you have victories and there are times that you have to accept this is their best effort in some instances. I have seen my son learn how to do things that doctors told us as a child that he would never do, but I and my husband have also had to learn to accept and appreciate some of his limitations that could be lifelong. I say this to point out it is more important for a person or their family/supports that they reach their highest capability level than anyone else. However, this additional burden can be disruptive and I am concerned about the hardship this could cause for individuals and for those who are fortunate enough to have, their families/support systems that are helping them to function and survive in their daily lives considering the proposed monthly requirements.

This bill could add additional responsibilities to individuals or their families/supports that could hinder or interrupt the already full task of helping the individual to move towards other goals of them reaching their fullest potential. My son is fortunate to have his family (parents and siblings) and supports to help him in his journey, however please understand that it requires a great deal of sacrifice and time to help him function to his fullest capabilities and some days are better than others. Another unnecessary burden taken even more precious time away based on unnecessary bureaucracy.

I also understand that there are some individuals who may function at a higher level than my son who may be able to function as an "able bodied adult", however in my opinion that needs to be clearly defined because if it is misinterpreted, a person in sincere need may lose a much needed benefit that could cause them to decompensate which in my opinion we all will pay the price, however not nearly as much as that individual and their family/supports.

Excerpt from SB1092:

At the direction of the Arizona State Legislature and upon CMS approval, AHCCCS is proposing to implement the following requirements for "able-bodied adults" receiving Medicaid services:

- The requirement for all able-bodied adults to become employed or actively seeking employment or attend school or a job training program.
- The requirement for able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income.
- The authority for AHCCCS to ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.
- The authority for AHCCCS to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years except for certain circumstances.

Thank you for your time and considering my heartfelt perspective as a parent and caregiver. I believe there has to be perspective and strengths based approach.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Public Comment
Date: Sunday, March 26, 2017 11:17:43 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm in complete disagreement with this proposal. I specifically take issue with the maximum length of time someone will be allowed to be enrolled in Medicaid. I also disagree with the requirement that a person be working to receive the benefits.

I am a registered voter in Pima County.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS changes NOT
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:35:35 AM

The Arizona legislature is hellbent on denying any form of benefit to the poor, disabled, and disenfranchised. The legislature's sacred belief in the private sector is misplaced and foolish. A lifetime cap on benefits is offensive and morally wrong. People are not entitled to work just because the Arizona legislature deems it so. This voter is keeping tabs on my state representatives and will vote against them if they attempt to restrict current federal guidelines. People living in their vehicles is Arizona's disgrace.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Az Accccs
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:46:56 AM

My daughter cannot work due to mental illnesses. What will we do?
Shall she suffer? She needs this coverage and has seen psychiatrists. She has been
Hospitalized twice. Do you think we are pulling a prank?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:32:53 AM

Hello,

Do NOT allow this highly counterproductive effort to continue.

So many people who could be shut out of health care in Arizona includes adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives; people with felonies who have trouble finding jobs; and people living in rural areas, people with chronic illnesses that wax and wane, plus many others. The changes are short-sighted and do not take into account the reasons that people might be on Medicaid.

Kicking people off of Medicaid because of the lifetime limit or work requirement will result in more uninsured people seeking care in emergency departments. This will NOT reduce costs but only shift them to those who are unable to pay, which will end up costing the state more anyway long term.

As a recent UA graduate said: "There is a whole culture of trying to reduce costs in ways that are cruel to people." Our great state is Arizona is famous for this but now is the time for a change in that regard especially! The people of Arizona DO NOT WANT these proposed changes to AHCCCS to go through.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:53:05 AM

This does not make sense on either a moral or economic basis.

Morally, we have a responsibility to take care of our most vulnerable citizens. Vulnerable individuals, who, for a complex set of reasons are not able to work, still deserve the basic right to healthcare.

Economically, this makes no sense. Those individuals with no insurance will put off getting basic care and then present in our emergency rooms with more acute symptoms. The ERs are mandated to treat, at a high cost. These costs are passed on to all of us!

This proposal is bad legislation for all of us.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Work requirement
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 7:22:41 AM

I am writing to express my displeasure with the poorly thought out proposal to attach a work requirement to AHCCCS eligibility. It is wrong to punish the poor with such a requirement.

I am not poor, but many years ago, I was. I was unemployed and uninsured for 10 months. I spent all day every day looking for work, taking any temporary job I could get until I was finally able to get back on my feet. A health emergency during that time would have been catastrophic.

There are valid reasons people are unemployed, some of which are caused by governmental and societal factors beyond the control of the individuals needing health care.

Arizona's treatment of its poor is already inhumane in many instances. Please show some deeper understanding of the reasons for poverty and don't further scapegoat the vulnerable.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS - proposed restrictions
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:03:40 AM

A society is judged by how it treats its most disadvantaged citizens.

The proposed restrictions do not take into account the many adversities that could prevent an individual from complying with them; the restrictions could cause dire poverty and even death to those suffering from circumstances beyond their control. Economic recessions, such as the 2008-present recession, can and probably will happen again. Such recessions are not within the control of someone who has used his 5 years of benefits. The rich and corporations thrive on a low wage economy that keep low wage workers from getting ahead or even making ends meet. Low wage workers who can't get insurance through their employment and can't afford ACA policies could easily find themselves facing early death from lack of health care.

Making disadvantaged people jump through bureaucratic hoops to show an inability to work could put or keep families in long-term poverty and could result in death.

Why does our government want to be part of such a mean-spirited, draconian plan to further enrich the richest while denying the poor at least food, shelter, and, in fact, life itself?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Don't drop "able bodied" adults off the rolls
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:03:54 AM

I was a case manager for long term care AHCCCS for many years, and because my clients were in the home setting (cheaper than SNF care) I also dealt with the families and their needs. There are so many family caregivers out there, for example, a woman in her forties caring for an elderly mother who has Medicare or a single mother with infants or preschool kids on KidsCare. These unpaid caregivers need coverage also! I had a client a few years ago whose husband had to stop working in his 50s due to a heart condition, and had no insurance. He wasn't on disability, but he couldn't afford his heart medication either. I was constantly worried about what would happen to my client (who had both physical and mental disabilities) if he suddenly dropped dead of a heart attack because he couldn't get healthcare for himself. I was able to pay him a little as a caregiver for some of her needs, but not much.

Rural healthcare would also be dealt a huge blow if people in those areas who are unable to get a "regular" job, by the state's definition. What about people who don't have reliable transportation? What about people out in the country who barter goods and services they need with their neighbors? If they need healthcare and go to their local (probably struggling) hospital, how is their care going to be paid for?

This move would cause not only suffering for the many people who need coverage, it would also punish healthcare providers who need to stay solvent,

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: My comments for your consideration
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:31:41 AM

To whom it may concern-

We support SB 1092 specifically as the language pertains to able-bodied Arizonans. We also support lifetime limits for those Arizonans on Medicaid.

In addition, we strongly recommend adding a drug testing provision for all those initially signing up for this benefit and believe that random drug testing and/or annual drug testing should also be part of this bill.

If you have any questions about our comments please do not hesitate to contact us/thnx/kwz

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: No on Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:51:59 AM

TWIMC:

Please record my objection to the proposal to request a waiver to put work requirements and lifetime limits on Arizonans enrolled in Medicaid.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Please do not pass Medicaid Changes proposed in Arizona
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 8:32:18 AM

To Whom it May Concern:

It does not seem fair to impose a working requirement for people on Medicaid in Arizona and also a lifetime limit for care. We will simple have more destitute sick people on the streets or in hospital emergency rooms with nowhere to turn. Please vote no on these changes which were also not passed by the federal government. Thank you

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver Proposal comment
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:02:06 AM

Being a 82-year-old, who has resided in Arizona ever since January 1978 and never needed to use AHCCS, I'm still NOT in favor of requesting a waiver from the federal government regarding capping AHCCCS or requiring work to be covered by it. Do NOT request such waivers, please. All Americans should be covered for healthcare, no exceptions.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:29:13 AM

Please expand the program to help people who need assistance. I would prefer my tax dollars go to help those who need medical assistance rather than my tax dollars going to school vouchers that pay for rich kids' private schools. Maintaining a medical "safety net" for those needing it, makes economic sense.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: For AHCCCS Individual Must Work, Be Employed, In School or in Training
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:10:04 AM

In order for any able-bodied person to receive AHCCCS, I agree they must either work, be employed, in school or in a training program. AHCCCS can not be a way of life without effort by the able-bodied receiver of the benefits making improvement in the ability of become independent of government assistance.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid (ahcccs)
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:27:48 AM

Access to medicaid (Ahcccs) is essential to millions of people who are low income for whatever reason,--physical disability, needs of family members, low-paying jobs that do not provide medical insurance. Not all people can extract themselves from this status in any given time period no matter how hard they want to and try. A cap on benefits in either amount or time, must not be placed. Also, because of the varying reasons for the need, employment must not be a condition of provision of care. Don't weaken or destroy our existing coverage.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid Limits
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:42:30 AM

Life is unpredictable. Please do not place lifetime limits or place work requirements on people enrolled in Medicaid. Everyone's circumstances should be individually and personally evaluated when necessary. Thank you,

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: proposal to put work requirements and lifetime limits on Medicaid
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:17:43 AM

As a nurse and educator, I oppose this proposal (Senate Bill 1092). It is unrealistic to think that all Medicaid patients will need it for only a short time and all of them will be able to work after a short time on Medicaid. Certainly we want everyone to be healthy enough to allow them to work, but that is not always possible. In an ideal world, perhaps, no one would need Medicaid for a long time, but for some people that may not be possible. We must not be so cruel and unthinking to put these constraints into law. Instead of punishing people, our efforts should be on helping able bodied people to develop the skills needed to find and obtain available jobs.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:19:14 AM

To whom It may concern:

I would like to share my issues with the proposed requirements for 'able-bodied' adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. You have the immediate need to define the term 'able-bodied'. When determining this definition, it is important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the 'able-bodied' requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.
2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. I also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements. I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and to AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.
3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of 5 years for able bodies employees. Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a 5-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease, and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment of Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:23:30 AM

To Whom It May Concern: This is a very, very bad legislative proposal which will hurt the bottom line of healthcare for all of us Arizonians. Please think about increasing participation in healthcare and not limiting it. We have allowed people to get healthcare at their doctor's offices through Medicaid expansion. This waiver will return us to the time when people use emergency rooms for their primary care. Have a heart.

Thanks for your consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Do not change Medicaid
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:01:23 PM

Governor Ducey's plan to kick people off of Medicaid after five years will deprive thousands of working Arizonans of Medical care and will have the effect of putting many in a situation of being too sick to work. Arizona needs a healthy work force. Ducey's poorly thought out and cruel plan will have the exact opposite effect. This request for the waiver should be placed where it belongs ...in the trash bin

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: medicaid changes
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:12:16 AM

I am opposed to the changes requiring a lifetime limit and work requirement for Medicaid help for the poorest and sickest Arizonans.

My son is on AHCCCS because he has Multiple Sclerosis. He is 41 and is severely disabled. He cannot walk or use his hands; he is legally blind and has cognitive limitations. I shudder to think of the extra paper work required that would **prove** he cannot work--both for our family and for the state.

Many MS patients look like they can work for a while and then an unpredictable exacerbation puts them in the hospital. What employer would want such employees that are so unreliable through no fault of their own? In short, it would be extremely difficult for MS people to even find a job--given their limitations. MS people frequently suffer extreme fatigue and are very sensitive to heat. What employer would take on such a risk?

There are many others who cannot work for many, many reasons and the state would have to be the judge on their lives. That would take intrusive government to a whole new level.

Also what does a "life time limit" imply--suddenly, sick, poor and old people have no further help for medical care? Essentially a death panel by default. This would be immoral, cruel and repugnant. It would put another unpaid burden on hospitals when these desperate people turn up with complicated and neglected illnesses. Who will pay the hospitals then?

Please do not institute those changes.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid Proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:02:48 AM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my disapproval for the work requirement and lifetime ban Medicaid proposal.

I am a registered nurse and have been for over 30 years. I believe this proposal will cause serious harm to the people who need the most help.

There are many "able bodied" people who are not employable for various reasons. Additionally, there may not be appropriate jobs available.

Please, do not move forward with this proposal.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Waiver
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:14:08 PM

I oppose Arizona's request a waiver to restrict eligibility to AHCCCS. It is both cruel and a false economy. Such restrictions will not make people any healthier; they will end up in emergency rooms or with long-term chronic disabilities that will render them unable to work or pay for health care. There are many reasons so-called able-bodied adults might not be able to work within the limitations proposed. A blanket restriction penalizes many people unfairly.

As a taxpayer, citizen, and human being, I hope that Arizona will revisit and revoke this request to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: changes to ahcccs
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:25:24 PM

I think putting life time limits and work requirements for eligibility is totally short sighted and counterproductive. There are many, many people in AZ who are not on disability but are unable to work nonetheless. These include high medical users who have sever medical and mental health issues. I personally know many people who fall into this category. There are also a a high segment of our aging population that are still too young for medicare yet are unable to work due to health, age, and lack of work experience. It's impossible to do manual labor when you are 60 years old and have health issues. Regarding the life time limit- now this is just mean- so you have a person who is a high medical user who participates in preventive care after several major illness and boom- they get cut off. A good friend of mine would fall in this category. Remember when this state disallowed organ transplants for a few months until the bad PR got so bad the legislature reversed itself? Should we go back to that?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comments on SB 1092
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:46:39 PM

Hello,

I write today to urge you to reconsider the proposed changes to Arizona's AHCCCS.

There are many reasons that people who are able bodied can not work. These can include being a full time caretaker of a parent or child. People who live in areas with no job availability. People who can't afford cars and don't live near public transit that have no way to actually get to any jobs. People are have a criminal background who are less likely to be hired. Many people are 'able bodied' yet unable to work. This requirement would penalize them for the wrong reasons. These are all humans who need health care, full stop.

And the lifetime cap on coverage is nothing more than punitive, punishing people who fall on hard times through no fault of their own. I know several people who were laid of repeatedly during the tough times of the 2007 - 2013 period. They were hard workers who had the misfortune of getting jobs at places that failed. Or their jobs left the area and moved to another state or country. Or a hundred other reasons that had nothing to do with their ability and desire to work. These are all humans who need health care, full stop.

Instead of figuring out how to give healthcare to the fewest people, please focus on expanding health care to ALL citizens of the state. Healthcare is a human right, not a privilege for those lucky enough to be born into the 'right' circumstances.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Concerns
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:12:07 PM

March 24, 2017

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: human resource development
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:20:19 PM

To whom it may concern:

This is to provide comments in regards to the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and the process of reapplication to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

Noting Senate Bill 1092 passed in 2015 the restrictions and the definitions of "able-bodied" need serious reconsideration.

It is certainly respected that those who might make false statements need to recognize that penalties are necessary for lying to any state or federal agency.

I appreciate highly the reporting provided to the public by Stephanie Innes in the Arizona Daily Star. I have not attended hearings regarding this subject nor am I an expert in this particular domain of sociology or the delivery of healthcare. However, I am very sensitive to the process of developing vertical integration programs in education that have cross relationships to the skills of those in the mental health community in enhancing our service to Arizona and our nation.

In the interest of developing data-based criteria for policy development, I appreciate those who investigate these issues in real depth. I appreciate the reporting of Ms. Innes that, in a Tucson public hearing on January 27 regarding proposed changes in the Arizona programs that there were overwhelmingly negative reactions from approximately 90 people in attendance.

It was my impression from past reporting that only one insurer is now providing payment support for Medicaid in 13 of the 15 counties of Arizona. This leads me to believe that our processes of providing healthcare, mental health care, and associated program development are close to a universal healthcare system right now. I take as valid information the, and that AHCCCS currently enrolls more than a quarter of Arizona's population, or 1.9 million people. I am aware also that the general unemployment rate is in the range of 4.6%. This implies to me that we need to look at U-6 in addressing the challenge of enhancing the strength of the workforce of Arizona.

Individual motivation cannot be mandated by legislation. Furthermore, in an open system such as our nation which allows migration from state to state, optimization of program development to set an example of excellence is a very complex challenge.

The dynamics of human physical and mental health over a lifetime in the context today of translational medicine provide some insights into the predictability which is being attempted by legislators at the federal and state level.

Since I have taught Emergency Medicine in the past, I think I have a right to support the comment that "kicking people off of Medicaid because of the lifetime limit or work requirement will result in more uninsured people seeking care in emergency rooms."

I will be glad to share these observations with others who have considerable wisdom in regard to the issues involved. However, presently I would urge those that are dealing with guidelines for use of state and federal funds related to physical health, mental health, and the development of an effective workforce move very carefully in making any changes.

Should further input be of value to your deliberations, please advise me of how I can be most helpful to you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Re: AHCCCS Work Requirements
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:15:39 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”. When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements. I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate. 3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees. Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: We do not support AZ SB 1092
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 12:40:19 PM

My husband and I ask the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reject this bill, as it will seriously undermine poor Arizonans' access to medical care by imposing lifetime limits and work requirements on Medicaid recipients. Populations that could be shut out of health care include adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives, people with felony records who have served their time yet have trouble finding jobs and people living in rural areas. It will also result in more people seeking care in emergency rooms.

Thank you in advance for rejecting the state of Arizona's efforts to deny health care to some of Arizona's poorest residents.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS - requirements for "able-bodied adults" receiving Medicaid services -
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:28:02 PM

To: Whom it may concern,

These requirements are absolutely unjust and unfair! The requirement for "able bodied people" to work in order to receive AHCCCS is ridiculous! To place a five year enrollment limit on AHCCCS is foolishness!

There are many, many people who appear "able bodied people" that are not! There are people who are mentally ill that are too ashamed or afraid to ask for help so their mental illness remains undiagnosed. A mental illness that prevents them from keeping a job. There are many, many people who have a criminal record who cannot get a job because of their past.

Are these people less valuable than "able bodied people"? I say absolutely not! They are equal! If this bill is passed it will make more problems not less. These people will not have access to preventative medical care. Will eventually become so sick that they will wind up at a hospital emergency room with a very serious condition. A condition that will cost the hospitals and the state tens of thousands of dollars to treat. To treat something that could have been avoided by a doctor simply prescribing a pill.

Also, this bill will open a plethora of civil lawsuits for the state. The people of Arizona are important regardless if they are "able bodied people" or not! Let me repeat this bill is unjust, unfair, and foolish!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 2:41:14 PM

I am writing you to oppose the proposed changes, specifically the lifetime cap and the work requirement.

My daughter is thankfully covered by Medicaid in another state, but I am using her as an example. She works, generally a 35-hour + week, but her employer doesn't offer her health insurance. She has a number of pre-existing mental health and physical conditions; without treatment, her ability to function is very compromised. With Medicaid coverage, she is able to continue to work and pay her bills and contribute to her community. If she had to pay for every doctor visit and prescription, she would not be able to. The expanded Medicaid was a blessing for her because it raised the income cap.

Not everyone under Medicaid can find a job, or a steady job, or is capable of working continually, as she is. Physical and mental conditions can come and go, and cause people to lose jobs even if they are sometimes able to do them. I fail to see how a work requirement could be fair and flexible enough for the people Medicaid is meant to help.

A big question looms: what happens to people who reach their lifetime cap? I'm sure they are not suddenly going to become rich and able to pay for their medical care. So once again it will fall to hospital emergency rooms to provide care and we will all end up paying for that.

There are many more issues with this plan, but these are the big concerns I see.

To: [Public Input](#)
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:40:35 PM

03/24/2017
AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I hope someone is actually reading this, as I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for "able-bodied" adults receiving Medicaid services. People with long term illnesses for instance are perpetually in varying stages of ability, which can be diagnosed improperly when determined by DES eligibility workers or some physician/psychologist who is overburdened with all these new case demands, showing that the state shouldn't leave this in the hands of office staff or overworked physicians.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term "able-bodied".

When determining this definition, it's important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the "able-bodied" requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation. Leaving this determination up to an incompetent judge, such as an eligibility worker who has no idea of mental state of the person being determined would be nothing more than an opportunity to make some disabled mental patients suffer. A friend of mine was taken off of disability and is now in a spiral of drinking and drugs, having been tossed aside in a judgement by someone who doesn't care or even know about what she needs.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. I am crippled with a walking disability but could type, but with my felony record and mental depression, I am able to get help through going to 12 step meetings and need to stay in that balance. I also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate. Causing anyone to have to reapply and go through the waiting process will make many homeless and helpless, leading to suicide and complete mental breakdowns.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

"Fear is born from ignorance. We think that the other person is trying to take away something from us. But if we look deeply, we see that the desire of the other person is exactly our own desire—to have peace, to be able to have a chance to live. So if you realize that the other person is a human being too, and you have exactly the same kind of spiritual path, and then the two can become good practitioners. This appears to be practical for both." *Thich Nhat Hanh*

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Office of Intergovernmental relations
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:32:36 PM

I would like to submit my input regarding the proposed changes to AHCCCS.

I am an able-bodied, small business owner who cannot afford health insurance. I was able to take advantage of the expanded medicaid that Governor Brewer enacted. I sent her an email explaining why I asked her to approve the expansion.

I am the guardian and full-time caregiver for my 78 year old mother who has advanced stage Alzheimer's disease. She lives with me 24/7, and I alone provide for all her needs. She is enrolled in the Arizona Long-term Care program. Without insurance, if I were to become ill and unable to care for my mother, she would become a ward of the state. The cost of providing insurance for people in my situation is minimal compared to the cost the state would incur if it would have to provide full time in-facility care.

I am sure there are many in my situation, and the numbers will only continue to grow given the increase of aged boomers and the inevitability of more and more people being diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

I urge you to continue to ensure that caregivers of incapacitated persons are eligible for AHCCCS under the expanded medicaid program.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public bill 1092-do not support
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 1:17:36 PM

This bill will only increase emergency room visits and deny those in need of health care services. Please vote no.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: waiver proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 3:21:36 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

These comments are intended to oppose the proposal based on support for our family member who greatly depends on health care coverage currently provided through Medicaid. Our son, who is single and 55, has been unemployed for several years... yet several times a week he beats the pavement looking for work and searches on line daily for work opportunities. Because he has not been able to match his work experience and skills to an employer in Tucson he has no income and depends on us for shelter and the support we can give him. My wife and I are over 75 and living on fixed income. We are deeply concerned that if our son loses his health care coverage and suffers an accident or costly illness we will lose our assets and fixed income..... as we will feel obligated to help pay for his expenses. Unlike others who feel they can or are forced to walk on debt, especially health care debt, we were raised to take care of our obligations. In this case however we strongly believe it would be unfair to have worked all our lives, paying taxes for a combined 140 plus years, only to be wiped out for the financial debt of a family member because he was targeted, excluded and treated like a second class citizen by the proposal under consideration.

Our son is one of the 300,000 individuals in AZ who greatly need health care coverage. Without the valuable help of Medicaid, people do not get annual physicals, do not get support for healthy living, do not get the medicine they need, and end up in emergency wards where incredible costs are often incurred, which in turn burdens taxpayers like us as we are expected to pick up profit shortfalls of care providers when we use their services.

We have been proud of Arizona and three other states for creating exceptions and making sure that hundreds of thousands of individuals are not denied what we believe is a basic human right.

Thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Do not impose waivers on AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:39:43 PM

To the Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Please consider this email as part of the public response to the proposed waiver of AHCCCS that would place work requirements and a lifetime limit on AHCCCS beneficiaries. Our state has too many people in poverty who struggle to maintain steady employment. They need the medical and behavioral health services that AHCCS now provides to them. They should not be punished for being poor.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Input
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:51:27 PM

The proposed waiver request to significantly change AHCCCS is a bad policy decision on the part of the State of Arizona. It is neither economically sound nor does it provide a safety net for those who most need health insurance coverage.

First, re the economics of the proposal: it is well know that those not covered by health insurance use hospital emergency rooms as their first resort for medical care. This is a costly proposition in that it results in a great deal of uncompensated health care, which is then paid for by all of us. Second, those without health insurance and of low income often do not seek treatment until they are very ill or have developed a chronic condition such as diabetes. If they are treated with prescription drugs, it is common for these patients to stretch their prescriptions by taking medication every other day, or by taking half of a dose. Again, when they are really ill, they cost all of us a great deal of money. This waiver is a false economy for the state of Arizona.

I am president of the Board of Directors of the Sahuarita Food Bank, about 20 miles south of Tucson. We have two missions—to feed the hungry and to assist as many of our clients as we can in achieving more economic stability and self-sufficiency.

Here is the reality they face: Food bank clients are eligible to receive food if their income is at 185% of the federal poverty level and below. These individuals are struggling to sustain themselves and their families with adequate food, shelter and health care. Every single day is a challenge for many of them.

Here are our primary concerns, based on close acquaintance with our clients:

--[if !supportLists]--> 1. <!--[endif]-->On paper, the work/school/job training requirement may seem reasonable. However, the cost of childcare is prohibitive for many families. Many of our families in rural Pima County lack transportation, a real constraint on job hunting, working and even going to school.

2. Further, gaining the formal designation of long-term disability—one of the exceptions—is very difficult, and yet many of our clients deal with real and chronic disabilities.

3. The monthly reporting requirements are unduly rigorous, even for families that are not in poverty. 60% of our families do not have regular access to computers. You and I would have trouble filing monthly reports. For those in poverty, this is an onerous requirement, and frankly, seems designed to remove as many people from the program as possible.

--[if !supportLists]--> 4. <!--[endif]-->The five-year lifetime limit is completely unreasonable, as a good many of these families will not be able to move to a secure financial position during their lifetimes despite our hoping or wanting them to do so.

This does not mean that we will not work hard on our second mission—to help people improve their economic circumstances—but it is a journey and one which poor health will only further constrain. *Please do not pursue the waiver request.*

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid/AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:09:22 PM

PLEASE DO NOT EVISCERATE MEDICAID!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposal to put work requirements and lifetime limits on Medicaid
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:40:35 PM

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposal spelled out in SB 1092 to regarding work requirements and lifetime limits on Medicaid. These changes would adversely impact the neediest of Arizona citizens. There is no lifetime limit to poverty, and refusing critical medical care for the poor is not in keeping with the values that we espouse in this state. Moreover, it would be counter productive, forcing the poor to use emergency rooms or forego medical treatment altogether. The work requirement could also backfire on those who live in rural areas, don't have access to transportation or the skills to become employed. While I assume that these changes have been enacted to catch people who could abuse the system, they will instead impact the vulnerable and the poor. Access to medical care shouldn't be used punitively.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public Comment on 2017 - SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:06:22 PM

Hello,

I am a resident of Pima County, Arizona, and am very concerned about the proposals in the 2017 Section 1115 Waiver potentially affecting Arizona's Medicaid programs (AHCCCS).

Specifically, the limit on lifetime coverage to five years (with some exceptions) may lead to a significant drop in coverage for those who are caught in a long-term cycle of poverty.

This waiver should be paired with additional plans to help those in a cycle of poverty lasting more than five years to somehow acquire employer-based coverage or other private coverage. It is possible that these individuals will recognize that coverage is no longer available to them in Arizona, and that families will choose to leave our state for other states that have more expansive Medicaid coverage. This does not solve their problem, but simply moves it.

Having experience in the justice system, I have seen how easy it is for some individuals to remain impoverished for a significant period of time, even if the person is working. This can be due to substance abuse or other behavioral health problems, lack of housing stability, childcare expenses, and other causes. If long-term causes of poverty such as these receive more attention in the waiver proposal, I will have a much easier time understanding its potential approval.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Regarding my input on the State Medicaid proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:40:19 PM

>

> I am in complete favor of putting work requirements and lifetime limits on resident Arizonans enrolled in Medicaid. Additionally, I sincerely hope critical checks and balances will be put in place to preclude fraud and to establish criminal penalties for any related violations.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: sb 1092
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 4:15:29 PM

VERY MEAN SPIRITED! i'm a republican, but i believe health care is a RIGHT for ALL americans regardless of their ability to pay.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:33:44 PM

I will make this brief as I am disabled and it is difficult to type for very long. I am one of the lucky ones. My husband has a group policy so for now I don't have to worry. But we never know what the future holds for us. This is a horrible idea and discriminates against though who most need our help.

Thank you for your attention.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AZ Citizen Against SB 1092
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:27:04 PM

As a tax-paying citizen of Arizona, I am against Senate Bill 1092.

I am against removing health care from any Arizona citizen who currently has access to it, and I encourage Arizona to work to include all of its citizens in quality health care. Removing access to quality health care from those citizens who currently have access to it, is immoral.

Having as many Arizona citizens with unrestricted access to quality health care benefits all Arizona citizens. Keeping our state population healthy helps us avoid opportunistic contagious diseases which may begin among people without health care.

Clearly SB 1092 will undermine access to health care for the most needy citizens of Arizona.

If SB 1092 restrictions are put into place, adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives, people with felonies who have difficulty finding a job, and people living in rural areas of Arizona will be closed out of access to quality health care.

Removing people from Medicaid because of a lifetime limit or work requirements will result in more uninsured people seeking care in emergency rooms which can lead to dangerous situations for the general public.

Senate Bill 1092 will deny health care to some of Arizona's poorest residents. Certainly we are better than that.

I am against Senate Bill 1092 and any other legislation or regulations that deny quality health care to Arizona citizens.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: House bill 1092 and AHCCSS
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 5:54:06 PM

I oppose the adoption of HB 1092. One reason is that In 2016, the federal government rejected SB 1092's lifetime limit and work requirement proposals on the grounds that those requests could undermine access to care. I believe the same is true this year as well.

If the Arizona legislature wants to remove people who are on AHCCSS, then they should pony up the dollars needed to help low income people overcome the obstacles - job development needs, mental health, and, foremost - pay up on the educational needs for everyone who has been shortchanged in AZ. Offer a free year of vocational training for people under 30 who have missed out, for instance.

Enacting HB 1092 puts the burden on the people who need this help, and who qualify now, rather than a pathetic Arizona state system of supporting low income and homeless folk.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Input on proposed work requirement and lifetime limits
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 10:24:53 PM

I am completely against the proposed changes for AHCCCS.

Able bodied adults cannot always work. In times of recession many people are not employed and even in a good economy the unemployment rate is not zero. Unemployment is higher among certain less privileged populations and this rule will hurt them. Many people are unemployed and have a long history of unemployment because of undiagnosed mental health issues. Drug use is another issue – people in recovery are often unemployed and need access to cover their prescriptions. Rules like this will put them back on the streets and back on drugs. None of this benefits us as a society.

The lifetime limits then add insult to injury. People who get sick after five years on AHCCCS now become the problem of hospitals and society at large. Their medical problems will become much worse because they have tried to ignore them rather than getting regular treatment.

I urge the state of Arizona to not make these proposed changes.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public Comment on the AHCCCS Waiver Proposal
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 6:35:24 PM

March 27, 2017

RE: AHCCCS WAIVER PROPOSAL

As an actively practicing primary care physician in Arizona since 1989, I would like to state my opposition to the proposal to impose a 5-year lifetime AHCCCS enrollment limit on Arizona citizens.

This is a terrible idea. There are tens of thousands of hard-working, tax-paying Arizonans who would be denied health care, and be subject to the risk of unnecessary illness and death, due to this proposed policy. I will list for you a sampling of the types of self-employed hard-working citizens who intermittently qualify for AHCCCS currently in my practice:

- Construction workers
- Maintenance workers
- Landscaping workers
- Housekeeping workers
- Handymen / Home repair
- Professional musicians
- Professional artists
- Freelance writers
- Freelance computer programmers
- Tutors
- Property managers
- Personal caregivers
- Towing services

As you can see from this list, there are a lot of real people who work hard and pay taxes, but who have either very low incomes, or receive work opportunities on an intermittent basis. These people have families, children, grandchildren, parents, and other dependents. It is very easy to see that over a lifetime of approximately 45 years of employment, many of these people will require over 5 years of medical coverage due to lack of employer-based or ACA options. The proposal to limit coverage to 5 years denies needed medical care to deserving citizens, puts all of them and their dependents at risk of financial ruin with any illness. Also, the shunting of care away from primary care and into the emergency room, a well-documented effect of low rates of coverage, strains an already dysfunctional healthcare delivery system.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 9:16:52 PM

I am writing to strongly oppose the proposed changes to Arizona's AHCCC guidelines. Very vulnerable populations will not be eligible for health care under the proposal, including adults who are caring for disabled children over the age of six, adults who are caring for adult relatives in the home, as well as individuals who face tremendous challenges in finding employment because of life circumstances (including those with a felony conviction or a history of drug use). I also believe that there should be no lifetime limit on qualifying individuals for receiving AHCCC. Without health care for the most vulnerable members of our society, we all suffer. As a matter of fiscal reality, we will pay more to care for sick people who were unable to access health care on a timely basis than it would cost to provide timely care for them.

Please adopt a more humane approach to health care for impoverished Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Comment
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:05:47 AM

Following are my views on this matter.

I oppose life time limits on otherwise eligible individuals to receive Medicaid when they are personally unable physically or mentally to work.

I have no objection to work requirements provided that:

- o the determination of "Able-Bodied" be entrusted to an independent body for determination, not the State, and that there are requirements for reapplication.
- o that the work requirement include documented volunteer time with any charity registered with the State corporation commission.
- o that exceptions include existing standards for high school students, sole caregivers of children and those subject to long-term disability.
- o that exceptions be expanded to individuals
 - who are principle caretakers for elderly or disabled relatives requiring ongoing assistance for basic daily living needs,
 - individuals who have committed felonies but cannot find work, if they are not subject to additional arrests,
 - those individuals who are undergraduates in state universities or colleges, if they are working at least part-time. I think this exception is important because people with undergraduate degrees statistically will make much more money in their lifetimes than those without, and that will be a net benefit to society.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my views.

P.S. I have my own private health insurance and am subject currently to Medicare. I still work at age 69 and believe paying my taxes is a duty. I don't think it benefits society for penalizing people or their families further when health or physical abilities prevent them from having normal lives.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AZ SB 1092 is bad for Arizona
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:53:58 AM

My husband and I ask the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to reject this bill, as it will seriously undermine poor Arizonans' access to medical care by imposing lifetime limits and work requirements on Medicaid recipients. Populations that could be shut out of health care include adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives, people with felony records who have served their time yet have trouble finding jobs and people living in rural areas. It will also result in more people seeking care in emergency rooms.

Thank you in advance for rejecting the state of Arizona's efforts to deny health care to some of Arizona's poorest residents.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on waiver sb1092
Date: Monday, March 27, 2017 11:20:01 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to you because of the changes you wish to make to AHCCCS. My wife and I made the move out to Phoenix a year ago in January, immediately we had to get Medicaid. You see, she's a type 1 diabetic and constantly needs medical supplies.

Now her condition does not mean she cannot work because she does every day. Thing is now we make too much to get her on Medicaid, but instead we can get a \$6400 deductible insurance plan. This is something we can't afford. If I purchased my wife's medications for 1 months supply it would be \$1140, and our insurance premium is \$600. This is half of our totally monthly income before deductions.

With my income I can support our household, and my wife can receive the healthcare she needs with AHCCCS. This is something she absolutely has to have to live. I am running out of options in Arizona when it comes to the welfare of my family, if this changes to hurt my wife we'll be forced to find a new location. The last thing we want is to move again.

I propose a small tax on the income of any household that has Medicaid. I would gladly pay you to take care of my wife. The trade of money and labor is the best I can give you for her life. Being taxed higher would be easier to pay than the deductibles and premiums I'm being offered. Also Arizona would then receive a new funding base with revenue to be allocated accordingly.

In closing, my wife and I are not the only two in this. We as Arizonans need you, the trustees of our healthcare and liberty, to protect us and help us grow. I think I speak for many when I say that trading a small tax for healthcare would be beneficial for both Arizona and Arizonans alike.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on Work Requirement to receive AHCCCS
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:32:13 AM

I am opposed to the five year limit on AHCCCS for able bodied adults. My reasoning has to do with what I have experienced with a Seriously Mentally Ill (SMI) member of my family and the DES requirement to work in order to receive Cash Assistance.

I was serving as a family advocate for my SMI relative after she moved to Tucson from another part of Arizona. She was enrolled with a behavioral health provider and had been designated SMI for years. When going to DES (ResCare) to receive cash assistance she was treated very poorly and when explaining her SMI disability to the worker the worker expressed to her that she too, the worker, "had anxiety issues " as if an SMI determination was strictly related to anxiety just like the worker herself had. My relative is a single parent with a 4 year-old and was told that she had to work 20 hours a week or she would not receive cash assistance. She was never told that there was a medical form that she could get completed by her psychiatrist in order to lower the work requirement or verify her SMI status. My family member was humiliated and felt like the worker put her down and assumed that she was just trying to get out of work. My family member left so upset she eventually ended up on additional medication and refused to return without support from me or a member of her behavioral health treatment team. After several visits and my advocacy, a paper completed by her psychiatrist and a top official of the behavioral health provider meeting with ResCare, my family member was finally given permission to work 10 hours a week in order to get cash assistance. My family member has had multiple psychotic episodes and is currently in the process of applying for SSI through the SOAR program.

After considering the way my family member was treated by ResCare and the horrible feeling she had even entering the job placement office after being treated so poorly, I can't imagine how every adult who walks in such a place will ever want to walk back in that door if they have any kind of issue at all. My family member was clearly designated SMI – how will people be treated that are not in that situation, or had drug problems – I can't imagine it. The power that those working in these positions have over people is tremendous and there has to be sensitivity to people and their positions in order to treat people as human beings. We are now going to not only have them treat people like this to get cash assistance but treat them like this to receive any healthcare.

I would never have disagreed with this plan if I had not just gone through this myself for a family member. I will not use my name as my last name is the same as my family member and I would not want to compromise her confidentiality but I do want you to consider who might be making these life threatening decisions of who is allowed to have health insurance and who not. Without multiple people expressing and verifying my families member SMI status, she

would not have been allowed to be on AHCCCS and would be denied if the current system were in place today. Not everyone has this kind of support she had (I am a strong advocate as you can imagine). She would be on the streets, in jail (as has happened in the past when she is not medicated) or dead under this new system if the same person was to see her and make the determination.

I appreciate the ability to comment. It truly is a matter of life or death and if a current SMI can clearly be turned down how many other deserving people will also be turned away. By the way, my relative is now working part-time in a Peer Support position and doing well, no thanks to ResCare.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comments on Waiver
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:17:33 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[oledata.mso](#)

Among populations that could be shut out of health care if the restrictions were to be put in place are adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives; people with felonies who have trouble finding jobs; and people living in rural areas, state officials were told.

Kicking people off of Medicaid because of the lifetime limit or work requirement will result in more uninsured people seeking care in emergency rooms, the critics said. Ultimately it would end up denying health care to some of Arizona's poorest residents, they argued. This will cause additional administrative costs to implement and verify employment, household composition and income every 6 months which will increase the costs of health care. When we limit those vulnerable population from access to health care we shift costs form the States to the emergency rooms in hospitals. AS we have seen in the past when people are denied access they do not access preventative services and wait until their health has deteriorated to the point of costly care.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Sb1092
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:59:04 AM

What happens to the people unable to qualify for disability but are still unable to Work?

If these people are throw off of ahcccs then where do they get health care?

Right now everyone is entitled to get some sort of health, I feel if someone does not have money to buy what is required by law they should continue to get ahcccs.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: work requirements for Medicaid
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:46:42 AM

I urge you not to put work requirements and lifetime limits on people enrolling for Medicaid in Arizona. That would lock people into a cycle of poverty, hopelessness and despair. Life changes, economy changes, health changes, family changes, politics change, environments change. Most of these changes are beyond our control, even for those of us with resources and the ability to provide for ourselves. A disability, a child with extended needs, an elderly relative, a job that has dissolved should not condemn a person.

If you can't see the humane side of this then look at the financial side. You are not saving money, you are passing the charge on to others. Is this so different from what you are accusing others of?

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: proposed ammendment
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:22:50 PM

I am opposed to the proposed amendment to the Section 1115 Waiver to AHCCCS. A similar amendment was rejected in January by the Federal Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. That is likely to happen again to this one.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Public Input for Able-Bodies People to Work, Be Employed, Or in School
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 12:52:31 PM

I think any able-bodied person receiving government assistance should be on a limited basis for AHCCCS. The government should require proof of employment, training, or school. The person receiving any AHCCCS benefits should perform community service to re-pay the taxpayers. Hours of repayment should be based on minimum wage as to the dollar amount they are receiving. People would feel less obligated and feel that they are compensating for the services they are receiving.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: putting work requirements and lifetime limits on Arizonans enrolled in Medicaid
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:51:14 AM

As a public health professional, I must write against employment and "lifetime limits" for AHCCS. The last century has been a century of emerging epidemics: Lyme disease, hantavirus, HIV, zika, ebola, to name just a few. Although rarely discussed, sexually transmitted infections continue to flourish. A recent report notes TB cases have increased in the US for the first time in decades.

No infectious agent does an interview to determine if you are out of work, seeking work, or have exceeded "lifetime limits," or, conversely, are currently employed and have adequate health insurance. Rather the infectious agent thrives and spreads where immune barriers are weakened and potentially effective treatments are delayed. Obstacles to health care access for any Arizonan hurts all Arizonans and distracts from problems that could be better addressed elsewhere in regional systems, e.g., education, tax structure, business-friendly environments, business incubators, and other strategies to increase employment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Re sb1092 legislative directive waiver
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:00:23 PM

As someone who has worked with the elderly, I oppose this directive limiting healthcare for our elders. What does this say about us? Do we not care if the health of our elders deteriorates to the point of death? Please do not do this heartless measure.

This measure will increase the number of uninsured and flood our emergency hospitals rooms. AHCCCS covers the health of 1.9 million Arizonans.

Thank you for your consideration,

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:48:49 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to oppose any attempt to put caps or limitations on AHCCCS benefits. The vicissitudes of life have left four family members dependent on these benefits to one degree or another. My sister is bipolar with schizoaffective disorder and has been on federal disability for many years--she cannot work; she depends upon AHCCCS. My brother has severe depression and anxiety disorder; the medications he has been on cause weight gain and he has developed diabetes. He is marginally employed, but could never earn enough to acquire health insurance; he receives benefits from AHCCCS. My 84-year-old mother has bipolar illness and also receives AHCCCS benefits, which increases her Social Security check from \$513 to \$637 per month (and as you can imagine, that money is desperately needed). My 92-year-old father served in the Navy during WWII and is a veteran of the Battle of Okinawa. He will today (fingers crossed) be moved from the VA to the Arizona State Veteran's Home, where he will be entirely dependent upon AHCCCS payments to keep him there, at least until his Aid and Attendance application is processed, which will take many months nor is approval assured. In the fullness of time, my mother will be able to join him there and may have to rely on AHCCCS payments, as well. My father is a proud man, and it was never his intention that his family should be dependent in this way, but life is what happens when you're making other plans. I cannot care for all of them myself and I can't possibly carry them financially; I'm just praying that the cards I'm dealt going forward will allow me to take care of myself.

My dad served his country in time of dire need and I am asking that you consider him and people like him--all those unable to care for themselves through no fault of their own--and instead of limiting AHCCCS, expand it to more people. Arizona's economy will be healthier in the long run and its citizens will be healthier and happier. Poverty is miserable and disruptive to democracy.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: comment on AHCCCS waiver proposal
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:25:54 PM

To whom it may concern, I'm offering my comments on the renewal and proposed changes to AHCCCS or Access for Arizona.

I am strongly AGAINST work requirements and lifetime limits for applicants or participants. Nothing has changed since 2016, when the feds rejected these restrictions. Arizona is still a poor state with high unemployment and child poverty at 25%. We are 48th on the educational scale, and have a 25% high school dropout rate. These are shameful statistics that reflect badly on the Arizona state legislature, where laws are passed and policy is decided. Let's not add to our embarrassment by kicking poor people off of the only health care available.

We need to maintain access to AHCCCS for as many people as possible. A healthy population stays out of emergency rooms, and pays state and property taxes. A healthy child finishes high school and enters college or tech school, becoming a productive citizen and taxpayer, instead of a criminal or dependent. Maintaining AHCCCS is financially prudent, socially responsible, and sensible in every way. Let's not degenerate into religious or ideological fanaticism. Please do what is best for this state and our future.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Do not impose waivers on AHCCCS
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 3:28:42 PM

To the Office of Intergovernmental Relations

Please consider this email as part of the public response to the proposed waiver of AHCCCS that would place work requirements and a lifetime limit on AHCCCS beneficiaries. Our state has too many people in poverty who struggle to maintain steady employment. As a member, we need medical and behavioral health services that AHCCCS now provides to us. We should not be punished for being poor.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid Enrollees
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:26:20 PM

I am completely against proposals to place limitations on AHCCCS and/or Medicaid program. I live in Tucson and see homeless people in Pima County on the street corners daily. Many of these people have mental illness, are homeless, live in all weather elements. There is no way they can hold jobs because they do not have skills or even a place to shower and dress appropriately for work. There are people that live in the poorest conditions. If they lose medical benefits, they won't have medical coverage. This proposal is too ambiguous. It does not spell out Medicaid for Seniors or retirees. This proposal leaves too many unanswered loose ends. Not every person that needs help has children or a disability. To place these sanctions on those in need is discriminatory. What specifically constitutes "an able-bodied Arizonan? Because someone "looks" able-bodied doesn't mean they are. A lifetime limit is not only absurd but unrealistic. Animals get better care in this state than people do. Where has humanity gone to? Even dogs and cats have shelters but not homeless people, who by the way are not all diagnosed as mentally ill. This proposal to restrict and limit care will only cause MORE uninsured people, more ER visits, higher costs to tax payers and force elderly people to work after they've spent their lifetime working. I vote NO to your undermining and underhanded way to carve human beings out of health care. NO to this proposal.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed AHCCCS changes
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:07:04 PM

This message was sent securely using ZixCorp.

I strongly disfavor the proposed SB1092's lifetime limits and employment requirements. This proposed change will dramatically increase cost to AHCCCS while worsening our Arizona residents' health, due to transfer of preventative and primary care to expensive emergency room and catastrophic inpatient care. Persons living in rural areas and areas with high unemployment would be unfairly shut out of healthcare, along with other vulnerable adults who would be unfairly denied health care.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Section 1115 Waiver
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 2:44:59 PM

March 28, 2017

Re: Section 1115 Waiver

I am respectfully requesting that you consider the following as you make decisions on the Section 1115 Waiver:

Serious Mental Illness Diagnosis

Please recognize the importance of providing AHCCCS medical coverage to people diagnosed with a Serious Mental Illness. While the proposal includes language as to “able bodied” that should protect SMI diagnosed people for the work mandate, it does not specifically call out coverage for those unfortunate people. We need language that clearly states that people who have a diagnosis of SMI are automatically covered by AHCCCS, in the absence of family/employer medical coverage.

Let’s be more humane than our current Social Security system! People with a documented diagnosis of Serious Mental Illness are routinely denied the meager assistance of SSI and are told that they are not disabled and should be working to support themselves, not applying for SSI or SSDI. Please don’t take away the very basics of medical care for these people as well.

Homelessness

Eliminating medical care for many people diagnosed as SMI will surely mean an increase in homelessness and further misery for those who are ill and do not have family who can (or will) help them. They do not want to be afflicted with the serious mental illness!!! The homeless population includes far too many veterans – those who served our country and are now discarded as unworthy of help.

Discrimination Against Childless Women

Another guideline or “rule” that increases costs and discriminates against some women is the quick approval of medical coverage for women who have children. While it is important that we provide medical care for children, it is not fair (nor logical cost-wise) to automatically also provide coverage for the mother of those children, while denying coverage for women who are childless. The childless woman may have made the responsible decision not to bring children into the world when she cannot provide for them.

Currently the message to women is clear: just have a child (or multiple children for increased benefits) and you will be eligible for assistance as well as medical coverage and other benefits. Please continue providing medical coverage for the children, but treat all women equally: cover women (and men), based upon their health, financial circumstances and ability to work, not simply because they have had children.

As a (finally) retired woman taxpayer, I do want our government make sound financial decisions and spend our tax dollars wisely. However, even more importantly, please make fair, long-term focused decisions.

I worked until I was 71, paying income taxes and social security. Now I am living on social security (no pension) and a very small IRA. Despite limited income, I also am continuing to support my SMI diagnosed adult child who is continually in jeopardy of losing just the basic medical coverage. There is no one else to help her!! Vested interest – yes; asking for logic and fairness – definitely yes!!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: senate bill 1092-changes
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 1:42:39 PM

I am totally in favor of the states proposal to put work requirements and lifetime limits on Arizonans enrolled in Medicaid.
Thank you for listening.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: State proposal on Medicaid
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 5:32:17 PM

I am writing to convey my *very strong opposition* to the state proposal to put work requirements and lifetime limits on Arizonans enrolled in Medicaid. I believe that SB 1092's proposed changes would have an extremely negative effect on adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives; people with felony records who have trouble finding work; and people living in rural areas where job opportunities are few. Ultimately, such restrictions would deny health care to our poorest residents. This is unconscionable and shows a lack of compassion. I strongly hope that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services reject Arizona's proposal.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comments
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:34:59 AM

while the focus may be five year limits on able-bodied persons there are other issues that need addressing in my opinion as well. As far as the five year cap is concerned, I agree, those who can work, should be.

In addition, other thoughts.... Health care is not free, nor is anything else. To respect this fact, EVERYONE should have a co-pay to use health care. Even the poor. A co-pay means that people think about going to a doctor instead of just rushing to the health care system for attention.

I have one very good example in my life of a woman who completely abuses the ACHSS system in my opinion....she spends her life now going to doctors because she is qualified for ACHSS and after a lifetime of abusing her body with drugs and alcohol and no exercise, is sent for test after test after expensive test. There is no cure for what ails her and she has no 'governor' on her health care use. She has no job, and spends her conversational time telling everyone about the 'expensive' tests she gets on what seems like a weekly basis. The medical system is the attention she does not get elsewhere nor give to herself. A co-pay would be that 'governor' on her now new hobby, going to the doctor.....as would other incentives built into the system. Incentives like maintaining proper body weight, dietary and lifestyle changes. While hard to monitor exactly what people do, these issues need to be built in, and acknowledged. On one occasion, this woman went to the EMERGENCY ROOM for a cold sore in the corner of her mouth.

Co-pays can be designed to reflect income status, but a small copay for the poor is appropriate to make people realize they are consuming a product that has a COST!!! If this woman would have had to spend \$20 to go to the emergency room, she would have thought about it. \$10 to go to a doctor and \$15 for these tests.....how many would she choose then????????????????????????????????????

For those of us who have to pay big premiums and copays and in effect are paying for those like the woman I know who, in my opinion, abuse the system because it is 'free' this is frankly infuriating.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Improving health statistics
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 10:21:53 PM

AHCCCS is probably the best Medicaid program in the U.S.A., (one of the few ways we can be proud of Arizona.) However, what we really need is a better understanding of healthy living and of human psychology!

We are all exposed to germs in the air we breathe and the doorknobs we touch - because of the many people who have no health care or wellness education.

An improved Medicare for all in this country could do much to bring the average health statistics here up to the level of all other industrialized countries. When a federal government collects reasonable taxes in order to pay doctors and hospitals directly that is sensible health coverage and not socialized medicine. It saves money per capita to cover young people (who cost less, on average.) So Medicare for All would also improve our economy and cut down on paper work.

Thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposal to put work requirements and lifetime limits on medicaid
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 2:01:21 AM

The proposal to put work requirements and lifetime limits on medicaid needs to be defeated.

This proposal dehumanizes, caregivers of children, disabled or the elderly, people living in rural areas, the poor, and people with felonies who have difficulty finding jobs.

This proposal is obscene.

I am against putting work requirements on health care.

I am against putting lifetime limits on health care.

Everyone should have health care.

We need to increase taxes to pay for it.

Period.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed Arizona Medicaid changes
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:34:01 PM

To Whom it May Concern:

I am against changes in the administration of Arizona's Medicaid program that will deny people needed care because of factors outside their control. For instance, many young "able-bodied" people in Arizona cannot raise themselves up financially due to the poor quality of Arizona's under-funded public educational system. Vocational training is sparse and state support for post-secondary institutions is continually being cut. Despite repeated calls from state business leaders for a better-trained work force to fill modern business needs, the legislative majority and governor refuse to respond supportively. Does their devotion to no-tax ideology keep people from being sick or injured? Of course not! Yet their failure to support education does mean people can't earn enough to take care of their own medical needs. The mean-spirited and hypocritical restrictions embodied in SB 1092 should not be allowed to create additional hardships for Arizona citizens who are already barely getting by.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: RE: SB1092
Date: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:22:36 PM

To Whom it may concern:

I am asking AHCCCS not implement new requirements for "able-bodied adults" receiving Medicaid services. I do support efforts making AZ Medicaid efficient but suggest caution: those bumped off and have no coverage will be forced to use emergency services ultimately costing our state *more*.

I am "able-bodied" and self-employed but live with chronic illness that left me paying 90-105% of my monthly income to private health insurance before the AZ Medicaid expansion. I'm very thankful for this effective and well run program that benefits the health of Arizonans.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:03:16 AM

I think every 'able-bodied' person SHOULD have to work or be in school to get assistance. I DO NOT think there should be ANY caps, once the person pulls their self out of poverty, with assistance, they will drop off the State Welfare rolls anyway. For some it will come sooner, others will take longer.

I want any Fed or State assistance to only go to US Citizens or LEGAL RESIDENTS! No more sanctuary cities, counties, or states! Every illegal should be reported promptly and removed from our state!

I ALSO WANT EVERYONE ON ANY FED OR STATE ASSISTANCE DRUG TESTED, **RANDOMLY**, TO REMAIN ON ASSISTANCE! IF THEY FAIL A DRUG TEST, IT SHOULD BE PERMANENT DISQUALIFICATION FROM ANY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM EXCEPT REHAB!

I ALSO THINK THAT MARIJUANA SHOULD BE EXCLUDED FROM THE DRUG TEST AND MADE LEGAL IN ARIZONA!

I am tired of my tax dollars supporting generations of welfare families.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: State Health Care
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:39:02 AM

I agree with the proposed new restrictions for State Health care. I know of several able bodied persons on this program. Not fair!!
Please pass this

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: ACCESS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:43:35 AM

Access to free healthcare is for the elderly and the disabled. It's about time people have to get off their butts and go to work and earn what they get . The tax payers of Arizona are all for Trump's bill.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Changes in ahcccs
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:04:47 AM

My son has ahcccs because he has been determined to have a serious mental illness. He does work, but he income is below the poverty level. The only way he has been able to get health insurance is through ahcccs. If there is a five year cap, he will have to go without insurance and medication.
Sent from my iPad

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: DO NOT CHANGE AHCCCS PLEASE
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:56:58 AM

Please do not take my health care! They say I am able body, But below the surface I have a lot of health complications.
I can not find a job, that I am able to do on a regular basis.
I am just touching the surface of all the hidden health issues.
And Im sure I am not the only person in Az that has these problems.

With out Mercy Care I would not go to the doctors at all... I would not be able to afford it.

Thank you

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:55:07 AM

I work full time and my wife is able bodied but currently does not work. She takes care of our daughter full time and our daughter is thriving in terms of how smart she is. I do believe that all this time with her mother is crucial and she would not be as advanced if she was in a day care center which we cannot afford. If my wife got a job we'd lose access and have to pay for day care at the same time. I hope you consider situations like this before making s decision

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: What does able bodied mean?
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:01:10 AM

My concern about these changes>>who determines the able nosiness?? What happens to those who do not fit in either category? We should assure that all citizens are cared for

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: access to healthcare
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:30:11 AM

Everyone is unhappy about funding healthcare for some lazy slob who refuses to work and sits on his sofa playing video games. That said, none of us live in a bubble. That slob is behind me in the grocery line, takes books out of the library, goes to soccer games. If he is sick I want him to go to his primary care and get the treatment he needs. Making the emergency room his treatment of last resort endangers all of us and is the most costly solution.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCS changes
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:57:17 AM

I believe AHCCS is on to something...try this.....

1. How about original 5 year cap ,

followed by ability to re-apply after one year with a 3 year cap?

Each of these need to be supplemented by an average 32 hr. Per week minimum wage income for at least one adult per every two adults over age 18 per household. Everyone can get some type of income if they try hard enough, as long as they are not mentally and / or physically disabled.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Changes to AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:20:35 AM

In my opinion, the proposed 5 year lifetime ban is absolutely abhorrently cruel. The role of government is to protect the safety and welfare of all of its citizens, regardless of situation, income, etc. PLEASE DO NOT ABANDON YOUR CITIZENS, ESPECIALLY THE LEAST AND MOST VULNERABLE AMONG THEM.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:07:42 AM

My vote is that the legislature does not touch/modify medicaid as it stands today.

Thank you!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:52:55 AM

3/29/2017

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able-bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Comment on Senate Bill 1092
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:52:28 AM

I agree that "able-bodied" adults should be required to work, be going to school or be in a job training program to receive Medicaid. I agree with the exceptions and each case should be looked at carefully for eligibility. Adults gain a sense of pride when able to work! Some just need a hand up to gain education and job training.

I think it should be considered to have a tiered system of assistance. As applicants start to be employed, don't take away their assistance. Continue it to keep them at a living wage and slowly reduce the amount of assistance over the years as they are more able to support themselves.

Everyone really wants to work! Assistance programs tend to take away the dignity of those who need help the most. Let's change that philosophy from a "hand out" to a "hand up".

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid changes
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:45:16 AM

To: AHCCCS

From: Teacher and taxpayer in public school system for 20 years; private school teacher for 15 years, now hospice worker.

I wish to voice my dissent for the possible Medicaid change to a five year limit. I have had Medicaid for over 5 years since I have become a religious order member and worker. I volunteer full time, 6 days a week for Soulistic Hospice. If my Medicaid is taken away I will have no way to pay for my medical bills for certain conditions that are not going to go away.

Please consider either taking away the 5 year limit or else making adjustments for those who have medical conditions that require frequent care, thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Objection to proposed eligibility requirements
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:28:05 AM

I am writing to object to proposed changes in Medicaid eligibility in Arizona, which would place a five-year cap on coverage "able-bodied" adults in Arizona, as well as subject those using the system to more reporting requirements.

While the intent of these proposals is ostensibly cost-cutting, the potential benefit to Arizona taxpayers is expected to be very small. While marginal gains in savings may be warranted under some circumstances, they must be balanced against the costs and risks associated with them, which I believe are significant enough in this case to render the proposed benefit moot.

The risk associated with this proposal is that people who are underemployed or unemployed (potentially as a result of structural unemployment), employable, and seeking work will not be able to afford health insurance once the five-year cap has been reached. This is a serious problem if it renders these people unemployable later, and Arizona state finances will ultimately suffer from the loss of tax revenue.

Whatever other rationale may be provided for this proposal, I believe this is a financially unsound move for the State and ultimately unjustifiable. I believe it is also unfair to people who are under- or unemployed as a result of economic hardship, it will impose an unreasonable bureaucratic burden on the State which will directly harm those aforementioned, and I object wholeheartedly to its adoption.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Opinion
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:18:03 AM

Why you should hold people accountable; success story.

When I had my son at age 20, I was a student at the University of Arizona, and I had nothing. In these situations you do what you know you need to do. I knew I would graduate and provide a good life for my child, but getting to that point was extremely difficult.

I applied for benefits from D.E.S and was approved for everything; food stamps, cash assistance, ahcccs, and child care. Between my benefits and the financial aid I was receiving from school, I was able to rent an apartment. My son started attending the E.C.E. program at the Tucson Jewish Community Center. I knew I was giving him the best start I could.

In order to receive child care benefits I was required to both go to school and work. I was able to obtain an awesome work-study job in my field at school through my financial aid.

Because I was held accountable and persisted through an incredibly difficult situation, and because of the help I recieved from D.E.S. and financial aid, I was able to graduate from both the University of Arizona and Pima College.

I am now married and have a great job in my field that pays very well. I would encourage anyone recieving benefits to use it as an opportunity to get an education. If going to college or searching for work is a requirement for receiving benefits, then it will just make those people better and lead them to self sufficiency. I am proof of that!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS - Proposed Changes
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:11:48 PM

To the Office of Intergovernmental Relations

This email is part of the public response to the proposed waiver of AHCCCS that would place work requirements and a lifetime limit on AHCCCS beneficiaries.

There are many people in Arizona in poverty who struggle to maintain steady employment. They need the medical and behavioral health services that AHCCCS now provides to them. They should not be punished for being poor or disabled. It is not simply a matter of "going out and finding a job". If they could they would.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:06:00 PM

I oppose the proposed changes to AHCCCS requirements. I especially oppose the 5 year cap. This provision is just arbitrary and does nothing for our state. We need to cover more people and not just randomly kick people off of coverage.

Thank you for your consideration.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCS proposed changes
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:28:42 PM

I'm apposed to the changes proposed to the AHCCS for Arizona. There are many 'full able-bodied adults' who are caring for others who are 'not full able-bodied people' and as caregivers, they are very important and also need medical coverage and care. It is generally a very difficult job and when it is family there is generally no financial compensation for this very hard work. Do not mess with what we have because it is working and what is proposed will not work!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Feedback
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:00:31 PM

I am a single mother of 2 children, AHCCCS has been a GREAT help for us especially when Obamacare was proposed and passed. I work a full time job and try to maintain my family, but things get hard. I have been on AHCCCS for more than 5 years, since I was a child coming from a low income class family it is hard to keep afloat sometimes.

This is ridiculous and I hope it does not pass, many people that are on Medicare/AHCCCS are low income families that can barely make it on a day to day basis. Living paycheck to paycheck is hard enough, now imagine having your medical insurance cut or worse only having it for 5 years?

Who will benefit from these cuts? Not the PEOPLE, not the low income COMMUNITIES. The senate proposing this has obviously never been on the other side of the coin.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:46:38 PM

Hello,

I am a private citizen and Arizona resident and I wanted to weigh in on the proposal to to implement new AHCCCS eligibility requirements for able-bodied adults per SB 1092.

I strongly disapprove of your plans to require all able-bodied adults to become employed or actively seek employment or attend school or a job training program; to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income; and to limit lifetime coverage for all able-bodied adults to five years.

Caring for a child or other family responsibilities may prevent AHCCCS recipients from working or going to school. These adults will still require healthcare and their employment or training status should not be a prerequisite to receiving it.

Monthly verification of status is too burdensome and time-consuming. Quarterly or semi-annually makes more sense.

Limiting lifetime coverage is just ridiculous. What happens after the 5-year time period if these individuals are unable to afford private insurance or obtain a job that provides it?

Medicaid should be about providing access to healthcare for all those who are unable to obtain it due to income limitations. It should be a right, not a privilege for an arbitrary group of needy people.

I strongly encourage you to NOT put these requirements for AHCCCS coverage in place.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Section 1115 Waiver
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:34:46 PM

03/29/2017

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

Personal Story Here (if applicable).

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate. As a person with Crohn's disease, this issue directly impacts me.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able-bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS CHANGES
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:25:51 PM

To my Arizona Legislators:

The proposed changes to AHCCCS will burden an already burdened portion of our fellow citizens and will drive up the overall costs of health care as they will be forced to seek emergency rooms and hospital stays. Would anyone of us be happy to live under that system?

Access to good preventative medicine is a right, not a privilege.
Anything less than that is a sin.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed Waiver
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:00:49 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing in response to the waiver proposal currently under consideration. I have several concerns with the proposal. First, I think that assisting people to find work or become employable is a worthy goal. However, I do not think that their ability to access health care should be dependent upon their work status. The proposal is unclear about how individuals who may be physically capable of working but have mental health issues will be treated. Second, requiring monthly updates as to income and work activity is unduly burdensome and would cost substantial sums of money to track. It simply makes no sense. Quarterly or every six months is sufficient. Finally, I disagree with the lifetime cap. In the present state of country, it is impossible to guarantee that someone who is in their 30s now will only need 5 years of AHCCCS for their lifetime. If you want to propose five consecutive years and then a serious review, that would make sense. A flat 5 years no matter what is unreasonable.

In short, stop trying to deprive people of healthcare. Do not limit AHCCCS because you think people are getting something for free. HEALTH CARE IS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT. PROTECT IT.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SUBMITTING MY COMMENTS ON THE WAIVER PROPOSAL REGARDING AHCCCS (MEDICAID)
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:08:08 PM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please do not put five-year or lifetime limits or work requirements for AHCCCS and please do not ban enrollees for a year if they fail to report a change in family income or made false statements about their compliance with work requirements.

Please include coverage on non-disabled, working-age adults without dependent children.

Also please do not shut out of health care for adults who are caregivers for disabled children or elderly relatives, people with felonies who have trouble finding jobs, and people living in rural areas.

Denying AHCCCS (Medicaid) coverage would result in more uninsured people seeking care in expensive emergency rooms.

Anyone with compassion should make it possible for people who need medical care to be able to obtain it.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Arizona Section 1115 Waiver Amendment Request -- OPPOSE
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:52:00 PM

March 29, 2017

RE: Arizona Section 1115 Waiver Amendment Request
Senate Bill 1092 Arizona Legislative Directives

I have been a taxpaying citizen of Arizona for more than 35 years. I am OPPOSED to the proposed requirements making it more difficult for low-income people to get health care through AHCCCS.

These regulations would put additional burdens on Arizona's poorest citizens and end up denying them health care – or driving them to seek health care in emergency rooms, which ends up delivering only temporary care for them and making health care more expensive for all of us.

Levying additional requirements on so-called “able-bodied adults” in order for them to receive healthcare through AHCCCS will harm, not help them.

These proposed additional requirements appear designed to punish people, rather than help them.

I oppose the proposed changes, including:

1. The imposition of lifetime limits on eligibility for ACHHHS for able-bodied adults. If people need additional help, they need additional help. Current minimum wage laws are not enough to lift individuals and their families out of poverty. Making it harder for people to afford health care just makes it harder for people to work.

2. Requiring all “able-bodied adults” to become employed or actively seeking work, attending school or a job-training program. Some of those people may be taking care of children, disabled relatives or spouses or elderly spouses or relatives. Some may have chronic diseases that make it hard to keep a job or attend work or a job-training program. This hard rule will harm people, not help them.

3. Requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and changes in family income – this is much too frequent. The current rule is, I think, annual verification – which is fine.

4. Banning people for a year if they fail to verify.

Huge numbers of jobs were lost in Arizona during the Great Recession, and many, many, many people had a hard time finding even part-time jobs. That is still true for many of our residents.

In terms of how the people and the government of the State of Arizona should treat the poorer and sicker residents of our state, I hope that each and everyone of us remembers – there, but for the grace of God, go I.

The government does not guarantee each of us a good-paying job and cannot guarantee us good health. However the government can and must provide for any and all of its citizens when they fall on financial hard times.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed changes to Medicare are wrong headed
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:38:39 PM

Dear Sir or Madam:

The proposed changes to Arizona's Medicaid program are counter productive. Do we in Arizona want to raise our citizens up by providing vital health services to the less fortunate among us? Or do we want to pull the rug out from under people who are just getting by by ripping away a modicum of medical services?

The lifetime limit for Medicaid for able-bodied individuals is unrealistic. In these challenging economic times, one of our citizens at any time could descend into the ranks of the poor. Are you telling individuals to be poor for only five years? Do you think that people want to have little money and resources? With basic medical care, low-income Arizonans have one less strike against them as they seek to become employed and thriving, thereby benefiting our economy and their own families.

Rather than a "one size fits all" work requirement -- which is an undue burden for caregivers, single parents and many others -- why not provide more effective programs in job training? Why not adequately fund our public schools so that more students can graduate with the skill set needed for gainful employment?

The burdens on emergency rooms are well known. We've got to do better with making health care available before an illness turns into an emergency.

Arizona should not be satisfied with emulating a third world country that can't and won't take care of its own. How can our politicians brag about "Arizona Awesome," yet turn their backs on our neediest.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment. Please toss off the inflexible chains of ideology and tap into your heart and sense of decency.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 1:43:50 PM

Senate Bill 1092 is cruel, unnecessary and counterproductive.

It doesn't make sense to have a work requirement for AHCCCS because most of the enrolled adults are already working. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, here is the family work status of the nonelderly with Medicaid in Arizona in 2015:

At least 1 Full Time Worker = 66%

Part Time Workers = 13%

Non-workers = 21%

These percentages show that 4 out of 5 families on AHCCCS have adults who are working full or part time. These are the families that make up the "working poor", the ones that Medicaid was designed to help in addition to the elderly and the disabled. The non-workers are mostly those who are actively looking for work, retired, work outside the labor market as family caregivers or students, or are unable to work because of an illness or disability. The number of enrollees outside of these categories who are not working or not looking for work is very small.

Proposals that would terminate Medicaid for those who do not meet a work requirement would increase the ranks of the uninsured; nearly all who would lose coverage would not have any other affordable health insurance options. Those losing coverage could experience declining health that would make it even harder for them to look for work or get and keep a job. People who lose Medicaid coverage because they don't meet a work requirement will still get sick. They will still need medical care, but they won't have insurance coverage to pay for that care. Because they are low-income, they may not be able to pay for all the care they receive. Unpaid costs will fall on local governments, states, or health care providers as uncompensated or charity care. Eventually, those costs will be passed on to other consumers, raising health care costs for everyone.

Medicaid coverage can help individuals and families move out of poverty. Making sure low-income people have and can keep Medicaid coverage can be an important part of a strategy to help individuals and families stay healthy and move out of poverty. Medicaid coverage helps families afford needed medical care and avoid medical debt. It is associated with improved financial health and security, and Medicaid coverage can help people stay healthy so they can work. There are better ways to promote work among Medicaid enrollees. A more productive approach would be to connect Medicaid enrollees to voluntary programs that can build skills or assist in job placement. Studies have shown that programs that focus on job

training, education, and skills building are the most successful at helping individuals find and sustain employment. Voluntary programs have been shown to be very effective in connecting low-income individuals with work—and they don't involve the negative health consequences that come from terminating peoples' health coverage.

Limiting the number of years a person can receive AHCCCS benefits is just plain cruel and heartless. Why punish poor people and take away their healthcare? What is that supposed to prove? I'm embarrassed and disgusted that the state of Arizona would even consider doing such a thing.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Against section 1115 waiver in Arizona
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:55:06 PM

Wednesday, March 28, 2017

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able-bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:09:39 PM

03/29/2017

c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.
When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

Personal Story Here (if applicable).

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

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Personal Story Here (if applicable).

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Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Proposed AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:35:17 PM

I am a registered voter in Sierra Vista. I strongly oppose the proposed changes to AHCCCS. Arizona is better than this.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: sb-1092
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 4:16:47 PM

if able bodied people are able to find work or are going to school, or are working poor the state should in no way put a life time limit on their ability to have medical help in Arizona. also requiring such residents to report every month is the most stupid waste of taxpayer dollars and a ridiculously amount of hardship on Arizonans to make time to report every month when they need to be in school or at their job. I can tell already that this will lead to more forms and more inclusiveness into peoples lives and nothing more than a state governed nightmare on the working poor citizens of Arizona. for all those who supported this legislation shame on you

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: About Proposed changes to Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System, AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:13:53 PM

I am writing to urge you to PLEASE do not put the 5 year lifetime limit on AHCCCS. We are eternally grateful for the help from AHCCCS which has been a lifesaver for a chronic health condition that requires long term medical follow up treatment. Without AHCCCS we would not be able to get affordable and necessary coverage. And the loss of AHCCCS would result in certain death without access to continued medical care and lifesaving medications. AHCCCS has meant the difference between being able to be a productive human being and death. If there was a lifetime limit where this coverage would be stopped when the limit is reached, that would be a death sentence. We have not always been recipients of Medicaid, but due to a series of unfortunate events at a very bad time, we are so thankful for help from AHCCCS and the hope it has given us. Please take this into consideration and do not put a lifetime limit on AHCCCS recipients.
Thank you for taking the time to read this.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB 1092 Legislative Directive Waiver Proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:01:19 PM

I am writing to voice my concern and opposition for this proposal. Specifically, how will able-bodied low-income mothers or fathers be supported if they are the sole caretaker for their children or disabled family member?

Will parents who are "working" as stay-at-home mothers/fathers be forced to gain additional employment or else be kicked off Medicaid? Taking care of children is a JOB, and an expensive one if you have to pay for it.

Is there financial support with this legislation to put children in safe and regulated child-care so the parent can go to other jobs?

It does not help our economy to kick full-time caretakers off of healthcare, or make them choose between their own health and the safety of their children. There are too many horror stories of children put in unsafe care situations because their parents had no affordable child care alternative.

This legislation MUST protect families, not punish parents and care-takers.

I pay over \$800 a MONTH for my child to attend full-time day care, and I am lucky I make an good income to be able to do so. Most citizens seem to be unaware of how expensive even the cheapest licensed daycare is (I've never seen less than \$700/month for infants). Throwing able-bodied caretakers off healthcare stands to put children and families at risk, and therefore I strongly oppose this legislation that stands to do more long term harm than good.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Changes To Access
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:32:06 PM

I do not agree with the proposed changes to Ahcccs health care regarding the five year maximum term coverage.

Some people with chronic debilitation conditions are not able to work and pay for insurance, as they are either on disability incomes or working in low paying jobs that they may only be able to perform on a part-time basis.

I believe limiting a person to Ahcccs health care for no more than five years is unfair to the citizens in need of that care and Arizona needs consider the long term health of it's citizens, not to be determine by a calendar, but by a condition.

Thank you.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: proposed AHCCCS changes
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:20:31 PM

- Since the federal government covers most of the cost of Medicaid making the work requirement and lifetime limit changes would not save the state of Arizona significant amounts of money.
- It makes sense NOT to make these changes. Arizona has developed a reputation of being mean spirited in its dealings with its residents. Adding work requirements and lifetime limits would add credence to the reputation of mean spiritedness.
- Instead of putting limits on insurance coverage why not offer the same insurance coverage to all citizens. All citizens would like to have the same coverage as the lawmakers of our land and state are provided at taxpayer expense.
- As a result of denying insurance coverage to low income citizens of Arizona, medical facilities in the state will have many more nonpaying patients, and the citizens of Arizona will pay these bills in higher costs for treatment.
- Not only should Medicaid continue to cover medical needs, but should include comprehensive dental and eyecare for all patients enrolled in the program.
- It is important for all citizens to be treated with dignity and respect. Taking away benefits or denying benefits because they were not born with the advantages that most of the decision makers were born with is inhumane and mean spirited. We need to be a state with the reputation of being fair-minded, compassionate, and concerned for the welfare of all of its citizens.

NO TO WORK REQUIREMENT AND LIFETIME LIMITS
YES TO HUMANE, COMPASSIONATE CARE FOR ALL

CITIZENS

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid services
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:27:16 PM

The draconian restrictions on Medicaid/AHCCCS applicants are counterproductive. They will end up costing taxpayers more, as these citizens have only expensive emergency room care available. Preventive and early intervention care is much less costly. Also healthy people are more employable, making them taxpayers. Making applications more difficult is also not only cruel but increases administrative costs.

Certainly do not put a limit on years of care! Do you think diabetes or asthma is going away in a certain number of years? Many chronic diseases last a lifetime, but if treated well, can keep the patient productive.

Penny wise and pound foolish to make any of these negative changes—and I doubt the penny wise part!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver proposal re Medicaid beneficiaries SB 1092
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:37:21 PM

To Arizona State Government:

I oppose Arizona's effort to obtain a waiver requiring that "able-bodied" Medicaid beneficiaries work to be eligible for benefits. This assumes that there would be a substantial number of beneficiaries who may be "gaming the system," as is said. Let me tell you about my step brother.

He came to live with and take care of our 90+ year-old father when his mother died in 2014. He left his life and job in California to become a full-time family caregiver, as do so many people. As such, he has become a participant in what may be called the informal economy of family caregiving.

I encouraged him first to apply for health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, but his situation seemed too complicated to pursue coverage there. I then encouraged him to apply for Medicaid. He resisted, and I couldn't figure out why. Finally he told me he had never taken any kind of government assistance and did not want to do so. He continues to be without health insurance.

I share this story as a rebuttal to the notion that there are lots of able-bodied folks out there who could be working in traditional jobs but are not doing so in order to qualify for Medicaid. There are many people in situations like my step-brother's, who may or may not be on Medicaid. In his particular case, he chose not to even apply for coverage, due to his principles.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Waiver proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:46:54 PM

Dear

Please do not accept the Arizona AHCCCS (Medicaid) waiver proposal to enact strict(er) work requirements, lifetime limits, and one-year bans for those who might not fully comply with reporting requirements. This would hurt the people who need help the most, and in the long run cost all citizens more. Medicaid is an important lifeboat for those among us who are in the most dire of financial situations. It is hard for many to try to understand the many difficulties these fellow citizens face and rather than making a system of getting healthcare harder, we should make it easier.

While there may be the very few who take advantage of the system, as a business person I recognize that "the cost of doing business" in any system unfortunately includes paying for some waste. Rather than taking a sledgehammer to the system and hurting many innocent beneficiaries, other more targeted approaches to minimizing these situations can be implemented.

Many philosophies adhere to some version of societies being judged by how they treat the most vulnerable among them, we are a nation that is, relative to most of the world, resource rich and we should be willing to give a hand, for however long it is needed to the most needy among us.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Acchs proposal
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:49:26 PM

This proposal will only add more bureaucratic mess, confusion, and paperwork to the system. It seems these types of attempts at changing the system are always based on the belief that people are cheating. Perhaps some are, but most are not and need the help and compassion devoid in these proposals. The larger bureaucracy required to implement and maintain this legislation will not be cost effective, will require years of mixed up attempts at certifying applicants. Besides depriving most of the people who apply for it, of the necessary care they need and deserve to have in America, it is too expensive to enact and implement. This is a useless, near-sighted idea by politicians with only mediocre vision and creativity. Run this idea through a brain trust first and get a better idea.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Support!!
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:59:54 PM

I totally support the changes that President Trump would like to make to AHCCCS!

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: ahcccs
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:07:06 PM

I am very much against lifetime limits for ahcccs health insurance. I am disabled and without this help I would have to choose between my 12 medications and food. I am also against work requirements.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: ahcccs proposed changes
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:11:24 PM

I am very much opposed to lifetime limits on ahcccs. People do not suddenly stop being poor or disabled after 5 years.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: lifetime limits for ahcccs health insurance
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:14:48 PM

Please do not enact lifetime limits for medicaid. Too many people (including children) would be hurt.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Accountability for ahcccs users
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:27:52 PM

As a tax payer In a higher tax bracket I am pleased and relieved that changes will Be made. There are folks out there taking advantage of our tax payers (48%). The first folks we need to take off are the illegals and folks hiding their full income. Some are on ahcccs and living in million dollar homes. Enough is enough I can barley afford our out of pocket insurance along with what already comes out of my paycheck.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:54:29 PM

Please do not cut back on providing AHCCS services. I have an adult child who needs medical services. He would be without medical care if you change the guidelines already in place.
Thank you.

To: [Public Input; bruce plenk](#)
Subject: Comments on Arizona's request for Section 1115 Waiver
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:07:59 AM

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Please accept these comments on Arizona's proposed Medicaid waiver request.

1-Five year lifetime limit: This should be rejected as incompatible with the reality of health insurance in our state, as well as the nation as a whole. When low income Arizonans need health care assistance from AHCCCS, it often reflects a lack of health coverage from employers or an inability to access other health insurance coverage. There is no fair and reasonable way that any Arizonan could predict how many years of assistance they might need in their lifetime. Such a limit is unfair, inhumane, and not based on reality. This was correctly rejected by CMS as undermining access to care. Nothing has changed in that regard.

2-Work or training requirement: This provision should also be rejected as incompatible with the primary purpose of Medicaid and AHCCCS: providing health care to low-income Arizonans. AHCCCS is not a job training program. Such a requirement for "able-bodied" recipients should not be a part of a health insurance program. This requirement merely makes getting needed health care more difficult.

3-One year ban for reporting violations. This is another bad example of a "one-size does not fit anyone" requirement. Failing to report changes in income or work requirements may in some circumstances justify temporary exclusion from the program, but this will likely only result in more emergency room visits, since necessary health care is just that-necessary. Hiring additional staff to monitor details of alleged income misreporting and excluding some otherwise eligible Arizonans from AHCCCS will only make our state unhealthier. This provision should be deleted!

4-Monthly reporting regarding income and work compliance. This is also unnecessary and unacceptable, except for those who favor a larger state bureaucracy of bean counters. Monthly reporting is simply an unnecessary burden on AHCCCS recipients as well as on AHCCCS staff. Using valuable staff time (hiring freeze prevents staff expansion) to review thousands of monthly reporting forms is a total waste of resources. Reporting at 6 month intervals or annually or in the event of substantial changes should be satisfactory. Providing the health benefits which would make Arizona, especially our kids, healthier should be the focus of the program, not paper pushing. Reject this.

Each of these proposals is unnecessary, punitive, unrelated to providing needed health care and likely to restrict the availability of reasonable health care. We should all be working to improve the overall health of ALL citizens of our state, not using bureaucratic shields to hurt parts of our population who need help getting needed medical attention.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: comment of AZ Senate Bill 1092
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:57:43 AM

I am absolutely in favor of a strict limit on the time an able-bodied individual may be enrolled.

Further, able-bodied enrollees should be employed, actually looking for work (not just pretending to), or a full time student. In some cases, an individual in a bona-fide job training program would fill that requirement.

I am personally acquainted with two people who receive benefits under (AZ) AHCCCS claiming to be disabled. One is a very good tennis player and the other is a part-time hunting guide, fully capable of walking 8-10 miles in a day.

Anyone applying for AHCCCS who makes false claims about a disability or stipulated work requirements should be barred from receiving benefits for a period of FIVE years.

***I am a registered voter and I vote.
thank you for your time,***

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092 comment
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:41:39 AM

Hello, I am employed by a company that provides mental health services to AHCCCS members. Imposing a 5 year limit on AHCCCS eligibility and requiring members to be working seems punitive and counterproductive and could imperil thousands of jobs all over the state of Arizona in the healthcare sector (hospitals, doctors' offices, mental health agencies, substance abuse treatment providers). Arizonans have made it clear, time and again through voter initiatives, that we want our population to have insurance and access to medical treatment. This improves not only the lives of those on AHCCCS, but improves the well being of our communities and our state.

I am emphatically AGAINST the changes being requested in the SB1092 proposal and feel that the state should not be requesting any such waiver from Health and Human Services.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: changes to AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:34:49 AM

I would not support changes to AHCCCS regarding the 5-year limit as I am afraid my son would not be covered. He is a healthy male with the exception of his mental illness: he has been identified as SMI by the State of Arizona.

I want to also recommend that the state find a different provider for mental illness treatment. The current provider rewards its doctors/prescribers for not prescribing certain medicines - we have been told that "off the record" several times. Unfortunately, these are medicines that work for my son. We worked with doctors for over three years to find the right combination of medicines, and now we are told they will no longer be prescribing them. Sad, very sad.

Also, he no longer has a doctor he can talk to face-to-face. We have been told by La Frontera that those doctors are reserved for court ordered patients. So, because my son has his act together he only gets to see a doctor via tele-conferencing. He has no opportunity to develop a relationship with the doctor, nor the doctor with him. Especially with mental illness, it is important to form these relationships so patients feel more comfortable talking about their issues. Unfortunately, with doctors being changed on him and now the tele-conferencing set up, he feels lost. (Yes, we have talked with his case worker and told, we have no choice.)

I understand it is all about money; I work at Pima Community College and although we are a state school, we get no state funding. (Just us and Maricopa CC have been singled out; UA, ASU, NAU getting funding with increases, and other CC get funding...makes you wonder. Community Colleges are a platform that allows low income, first generation students, at-risk students to be successful in college, whether they go on to a 4-year school or go directly into employment.)

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Medicaid changes.
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:01:10 AM

Please do no implement changes. The new regulations would bring hardship to many people.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Death of Us Medicare Recipients for the saving of a few bucks...Plus this equals loss of medical jobs....
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:57:51 AM

My name is _____ and I'm a PTSD survivor at this moment...This can change at any time and can depend on medical treatment and medications... Some of us can not work and some can but the difference in opinion on who can and can't can make a huge difference and if anyone gets this opinion wrong then we could die. If our depression medicine is cut off which we cannot pay for even rent and electric utilities in the same pay check usually and with the cost of everything going up the cost of depression medication will not be obtainable and the outcome will be grave....I know so many people that will just basically lay down and die. They have been told to trust and take a medication that will make them better...Some of them court ordered to do so and this medicine makes you essentially addicted from the fear of not having just one does will make you have a massive list of withdraw symptoms worse than heroin or opiate withdraw. I would rather have opiate withdraw then to withdraw from the following medications and some would be deadly to all of which who take them and most people do not know who would be taking these medications and that the withdrawal would be so detrimental to ones health and how normal of a medication it is for almost 79% of Americans with health issues and or behavioral health issues would be taking. The following medications are; Effexor ER, Effexor, Pristiq, Wellbutrin mixed often prescribed with another medication that causes the same symptoms of withdraw as both Effexor and Pristiq..., lorazepam, Clonazepam, Xanax, Valium, and other drugs like Lithium or Prozac or Depacote. These medications are commonly prescribed and can help out tremendously and save lives with constant contact with a doctor and behavioral health counselors. They also save lives of families and the public. If there were more outbursts from the insane out there or people that are boarder line crazy enough to have road road rage and flip out and shoot someone or get fired and go postal as they say or a entire list of other issues from them having bipolar disorder and or schizophrenia or other disorders that can be hazards to ones health and to the public for the normal issues we face in life that drive one to flip out and commit these horrific acts. People that are medicated on these drugs are for a reason and some of these people are not fully let's say diagnosed with disorders but the limited medication they are on allows them to work and function and the second you take that away or even make them think they are going to loose it then the fear and anxiety already start going up and increase the issues we may face. Ask the call centers about how mean and violent and crazy people are on the phone with cancelled appointments and missed transportation to doctors appointments... This is the only thing holding these people inside their home away from the public with their internalize scary thoughts...We should all be seeing the deaths caused by the mass shooter who shot Gabby Gifford's and I do not say his name. I will not say his name but look at him...He was sick...They knew it and if he was on medication and being examined then he might not have flipped out but since he was not and he was boarder line then he would have been someone you guys would have said can hold a job and function and the day you gave him these sometimes horrible meds and then "made us better" then you go and take them away making a new list of problems then you are going to cause mass casualty in our state....Mass amounts of people who are boarder line crazy and the only reason why they aren't is because someone I'll equipped to make the decision says they are not "SMI" or "Mentally Ill" and then they have to appeal and appeal in order to actual have their medical diagnosis be set as they are crazy. You almost have to hurt someone and go off in public to be called crazy and marked as crazy and now you guys are going to pull the mental health away from people....Talk about stupid. It's funny that the police now are trying to send people to CrC for drugs and for calls about people that are having issues vs taking

them to jail and mental health is the reason why they are having a bad day and being called on to the police and so the police officers are trying to take them there first to get them help from what makes them reach out for attention or get them into a physical altercation or in this scary predicament they are in... Might be drugs.... Anyhow why does it matter if they cannot afford the help and you put them on a medication that when one dose is missed then they are made to feel mentally unstable and homicidal and suicidal. When you are taken to the CRC or hospital for mental health or a problem with mental health medication they ask you every time if you want to hurt anyone else or your self.... The doctors number one determination of that visit and mandatory evidence needed professional diagnosis of is whether or not the patient is a danger to themselves or the public. If you do make this decision you will be making the public at risk and the mentally ill a danger in mass quantities for a long time. It sometimes took years to get these people on the right medication and the right dose and the right treatment plan with the right doctors at the right facility and even now it's almost impossible to get an appointment for a missed dose or a refill early or if your having a reaction then you will be screwed and let alone watch the free health Care being taken away and watch how long it screws up the treatment plan for every patient that was making progress and getting the long overdue help... Sometimes people needed the help for years and we're stealing and robbing and hurting to self medicate and finally they are in a treatment program and off drugs and trying to just survive but are not deemed mentally unstable and you guys take away the insurance.... Well guess what he's gonna do.... He's going to rob cheat and hurt and not care because he will know that no one cares and his only reliable way it feeling mentally better is in his hands and that all he is is judged and lied too and treated like a number and that illegals can get free medical treatment and an American can't and other irrational thoughts into how the world is out to get him and now you have this guy and thousands of others like him egged on and basically huddling at bust stops all over town and each pissed off and building on each other's anger and the problems will get worse and worse and worse and all to save a dollar.... The issue is not how to save a buck because with saving a buck you will cut jobs and cut costs and essentially shouldn't have been in business in the first place. The idea of any business like the local businesses that say they have to fire employees Because the wage increase.... No! Wrong answer!!! When you have to increase pay you increase sales to increase and cover the pay and profit margins. The thought of cutting costs and firing is stupidity. The goal in business is to grow and to eventually pay yourself and shareholders and employees more money.... The idea is to become bigger or sustain and make more profit and maintain profitability and steadily grow with the demographics. The scared man's cut and run tactics of wage increase equals fire people and cut hours operation and this is how you loose your ass in business. The procedure is to lower the profits from each item and increase traffic with the lower prices and this will increase volume and hence you will need to be open longer hours to provide for your customers needs and wants and work on productivity not firing. The insurance game needs to look at what its paying for in hospitals. Do not let them raise the cost of a Band-Aid to account for the 10 Band-Aids prior the people without insurance didn't pay for... Make the price right and make the price of the illegals and non payers a separate line item like a write off. Then figure out a way to pay for it another way. Steadily increasing the cost of a band aids to cover the cost of each one you had taken without payment and everyday another one is taken and not paid for then we need a new system.

I have to take medicine everyday that I eill die for sure or have to go to the hospital everyday for medicine that is expensive and I'll die for sure if I don't. I also have PTSD and I'm not smi even though I have filed for it and should be smi but some idiot assumed I'm not and I should be and have no reasn not to be either disabled or getting medical all the time asill die if I don't have certain meds that I cannot afford over the countertop as it's over a few dollars a pill. But luckily insurance keeps me alive.... Thank God cause I cannot thank the government Because

the stress me.out and cause some.of my mental stress and phobia and anguish due to the sad rich get richer and poor should go away and die attitude they seem to have.

Please let me speak to someone who is high enough up in the ladder there to make a public statement actual be heard and matter. Most of us feel this same way and to have someone who makes thousands of dollars a year tell us who make less than a thousand a year tell us we don't need our insurance and we can work....They need to hear our voice. How does a guy that's33 make less than that per year and have to fear losing his insurance.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Against proposed Changes to AHCCCS
Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:31:37 AM

I agree we need to get people off assistance that are just being lazy but in the economy we have today, limits are not reasonable. I believe the work program should be tied to the money given and not connected to health care.

That way the under educated, disabled and elderly have a way to prove they are not able to work. Some disabilities can not be seen and too many people do not realize this. Many are not mentally able to comply with these directives and fall through the cracks. These programs have been tried before and they have failed for various reasons.

We don't need more people dying from lack of care or homelessness. It is embarrassing as a nation. I never thought I would be ashamed of my nation but at 55 when I talk to people around the world, that is exactly how I feel. We don't care for our people. A nation can not be strong if it is not healthy and well educated. We are failing on both counts.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: AHCCCS Absolutely Must Be Kept
Date: Thursday, March 23, 2017 5:35:37 PM

Low income people absolutely need AHCCCS health care. My daughter is schizoaffective (bipolar and hears voices). She is also learning disabled and cannot work. Having health care for doctors and medication is vital!

Cut tax loopholes for the wealthy to save money for AHCCCS.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: Section 1115 Waiver - Public Comment
Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2017 11:00:06 AM

March 22, 2017

AHCCCS
c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to share my concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. I feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

3/21/2017

AHCCCS

c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

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The proposed waiver defines “able-bodied” adults as individuals who are physically and mentally capable of working. I am a person with a disability who is able to work if I receive the necessary health care and support services. Without these health care and support services, my disability would worsen and I would no longer be able to work. If I am defined as “able-bodied” simply because I am able to work if I receive the healthcare I need, I will lose my Medicaid benefits and no longer be able to work.

2. I oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

I find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

I am able to work only because of the health benefits I receive through the AHCCCS program. It would be extremely burdensome for me to prove that I am working on a monthly basis in order to keep my AHCCCS eligibility. Even though I am working, I would likely miss my monthly reporting requirements and lose my health care as a result.

3. I oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.

I have a permanent lifelong disability. It will not improve after 5 years. I depend on the support services provided to me through the AHCCCS program and through its Arizona Long Term Care program. Long-term care is not provided by private insurance companies, so AHCCCS is the only place I can get the long-term care services I need. Imposing a lifetime limit on my benefits means I will lose my health care after 5 years and likely die as a result (not exaggerating).

P.S. I am making these statements in my individual capacity as a disabled citizen of Arizona. I am not making the statements on behalf of any organization, agency, or advocacy group.

To: [Public Input](#)
Subject: SB1092
Date: Tuesday, March 21, 2017 8:26:00 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image004.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

I speak against SB1092.

1. I personally work with approximately 400 individuals in crisis per year, 40% of those are typically AHCCCS eligible.
2. Of the 40%, 50% are homeless and most are not employable, have no identification, birth certificate, social security card, etc...
3. Many of these homeless individuals get placed into housing that allows them to work for room and board, doing odd jobs around the facility and would not constitute full-time employment under the AHCCCS guidelines.
4. A good majority of these homeless are struggling with mental illness yet would not qualify for an SMI status, therefore leaving them without insurance or hope of getting better.

Bottom line is that we would be creating an entire homeless population that would be uninsured.

Is this really what we want?

Please do not pass SB1092

AHCCCS

c/o Office of Intergovernmental Relations
801 E. Jefferson Street, MD 4200
Phoenix, AZ 85034
publicinput@azahcccs.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to share our concerns with the proposed requirements for “able-bodied” adults receiving Medicaid services.

1. We feel the immediate need to define the term “able-bodied”.

When determining this definition, it’s important to understand the cyclical nature of mental illness. One month an individual may meet the “able-bodied” requirement, followed by periods of acute symptom exacerbation.

For instance, people who have bipolar disorder experience periods of months during which they have no acute episodes and are able to work. However, they also experience acute episodes of depression and mania, which can last weeks and prevent the person from being able to function at work. These episodes are unpredictable and recur irregularly throughout the person’s life.

2. We oppose the policy of requiring able-bodied adults to verify on a monthly basis compliance with the work requirements and any changes in family income. We also oppose the policy that would ban an eligible person from enrollment for one year if the eligible person knowingly failed to report a change in family income or made a false statement regarding compliance with the work requirements.

We find this requirement to be burdensome and an administrative burden to both the claimant and AHCCCS. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, we know that 79% of adult and child Medicaid enrollees in Arizona are in families with at least one worker. For parents struggling to make ends meet in low-paying jobs, imposing a monthly reporting requirement with the penalty of a year lock out period only makes the goal of climbing out of poverty that much more difficult. Many people are able to work because of the AHCCCS coverage that keeps their chronic and mental health conditions under control. Work requirements would likely end in a loss of health coverage, adding to our unemployment and poverty rate.

Persons with mental disorders would be over-burdened by this requirement due to cognitive deficits often created by the nature of their illness. Difficulties with attention and concentration as well as other cognitive symptoms are shared by many of the mental disorders as one notices just looking through the diagnostic criteria listed in the DSM-V. These cognitive deficits make fulfilling a monthly verification a difficult task to both remember and to perform. Their focus should be on obtaining and following through with care, not performing a monthly task that is redundant since changes in family income is already a requirement.

3. We oppose the proposed lifetime coverage limit of five years for able bodied employees.

Individuals who experience poverty are at significantly greater risk of mental illness and individuals experiencing a mental illness often experience periods of wellness, interrupted by periods of severe illness. Imposing a five-year lifetime limit on AHCCCS eligibility contradicts what is known about disability, chronic disease and mental illness, and jeopardizes progress already gained by those covered by AHCCCS.