



# Community Health Center Association of Connecticut

100 Great Meadow Road, Suite 400 • Wethersfield, CT 06109  
860.667.7820 • Fax 860.667.7835 • [www.chcact.org](http://www.chcact.org)

May 11, 2015

The Honorable Nancy Wyman  
State Capitol  
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Lieutenant Governor Wyman,

As you know, the thirteen federally-qualified health center members of the Community Health Center Association of Connecticut (CHCACT) have consistently supported Connecticut's State Innovation Model (SIM) initiative, specifically the Medicaid Quality Improvement and Shared Savings Program (QISSP).

However, with the release of the Appropriations Committee budget proposal and the impending budget negotiations, CHCACT is concerned about the lack of appropriate funding for the advanced payments associated with the QISSP. The Appropriations Committee recommended cutting funding for this project in half, to \$517,500 in FY '16 and \$1,035,000 in FY '17. Depending upon the number of Medicaid enrollees, that level of funding could translate to less than fifty cents per month per enrollee (i.e., 43 cents/month if 200,000 Medicaid enrollees participate from the beginning). Even if the project is scaled back to 50,000 Medicaid enrollees – a decision that could impact federal approval for the entire SIM project – advanced payments would equal only \$1.72/month/enrollee.

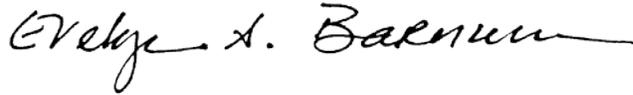
Funding at either of these low levels is inadequate to provide for the types of care coordination and data tracking and reporting that are envisioned under SIM. National studies validate that the median per member per month payment for programs similar to the services in SIM is \$3.62/month.

The FQHCs remain committed to providing primary medical, dental and behavioral health care across the state to people of all ages and to health care innovation that aligns with the goals of SIM. CHCACT remains concerned about access to primary care for all Medicaid enrollees across the state and asks that enhancing this access remain a priority for the Medicaid program and the SIM initiative. The State funding for QISSP **must** be at a level that allows FQHCs to participate in QISSP, maximize the number of Medicaid enrollees, and achieve the SIM goals for practice transformation as part of system-wide innovation/improvement. We strongly urge you to do what is necessary to ensure that advanced payments at meaningful levels are maintained in

the QISSP program. Full restitution of the money removed by the Appropriations Committee is an essential first step.

CHCACT stands ready to provide additional information that might be helpful to you in your deliberations as the State budget discussions proceed.

Thank you, as always, for your leadership,



Evelyn Barnum, J.D.  
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Secretary Ben Barnes  
Commissioner Roderick Bremby  
Kate McEvoy, Esq.  
Anne Foley  
Vicki Veltri  
Mark Schaefer  
Senator Beth Bye  
Senator Martin L. Looney  
Senator Len Fasano  
Representative Themis Klarides  
Speaker Brendan Sharkey  
Representative Toni Walker  
Members, SIM Steering Committee  
Members, MAPOC

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