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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Energy and Commerce
Washington, DC 20515-6115

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CHAIRMAN

March 29, 2007

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Diane Rowland
Executive Vice President
The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation
1330 G Street, NW
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Ms. Rowland:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Tuesday, March 13, 2007, at the hearing entitled "Post Katrina Health Care: Continuing Concerns and Immediate Needs in the New Orleans Region." We appreciate the time and effort you gave as a witness before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open to permit Members to submit additional questions to the witnesses. Attached are questions directed to you from certain Members of the Committee. In preparing your answers to these questions, please address your response to the Member who has submitted the questions and include the text of the Member's question along with your response. In the event you have been asked questions from more than one Member of the Committee, please begin the responses to each Member on a new page.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, your responses to these questions should be received no later than the close of business Friday, April 13, 2007. Your written responses should be delivered to 2125 Rayburn House Office Building and faxed to (202) 225-5288 to the attention of Rachel Bleshman, Staff Assistant. An electronic version of your response should also be sent by e-mail to Rachel Bleshman at rachel.bleshman@mail.house.gov in a single Word or WordPerfect formatted document.

Diane Rowland
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Thank you for your prompt attention to this request. If you need additional information or have other questions, please contact Rachel Bleshman at (202) 225-2927.

Sincerely,



JOHN D. DINGELL
CHAIRMAN

Attachment

cc: The Honorable Joe Barton, Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce

The Honorable Bart Stupak, Chairman
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Ed Whitfield, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

The Honorable Gene Green

1. Your testimony referred to the Disaster Relief Medicaid Program for New York after the tragedy of September 11, 2001 and how a different approach – the waiver process – was utilized to address Medicaid issues as a result of Hurricane Katrina. There is no question that the federal response was more effective in New York, so I would like to explore why CMS did not build on that experience to respond more effectively to Katrina.

In your opinion, what factors contributed to the use of a waiver approach, and did you sense a lack of political will to respond in a manner similar to the response after the attacks of September 11, 2001?

Additionally, what legislative changes would you suggest we make to ensure that the Medicaid program can effectively respond to a disaster and provide real help to Americans during a public health emergency?

2. The witnesses on the hearing's second panel shared different views about the effect of CMS' proposed rule on Medicaid financing and limitations to cost. Given that the public hospital infrastructure has been crippled due to Hurricane Katrina and the private hospitals have taken on the bulk of uncompensated care, can you address the likely effect of this proposed rule on New Orleans' ability to shoulder uncompensated care costs?

How does the unique safety net system in Louisiana specifically contribute to this effect?