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WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0608

July 15, 2011

Dear John,

Thank you for contacting me regarding the Medicaid-financed home and community-based services (HCBS) waiver program. I appreciate hearing your views on this issue.

As you may know, federal law provides states a number of flexible options to manage their Medicaid program. HCBS waivers provide states the ability to extend HCBS to individuals with disabilities of all ages residing in community-based settings.

On April 15, 2011, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued a proposed ruling that would revise HCBS waivers for a specific section of the waiver program that grants states the option of extending a wide range of home and community-based services to selected populations of individuals. The open comment period for this rule closed on June 14, 2011. After hearing your concerns and those of other Coloradans regarding the effects this rule could have on HCBS services in our state, I contacted CMS on the matter. CMS informed me that, due to the numerous comments regarding the proposed rule change, the agency is considering a significant revision to the final rule that will be released later this year. Please know that I will continue to monitor the progress of the final ruling and will keep your thoughts in mind throughout the process.

I will continue to listen closely to what you and other Coloradans have to say about matters before Congress, the concerns of our communities, and the issues facing Colorado and the nation. My job is not about merely supporting or opposing legislation; it is also about bridging the divide that has paralyzed our nation's politics. For more information about my positions and to learn how my office can assist you, please visit my website at www.markudall.senate.gov.

Warm regards,



Mark Udall
U.S. Senator, Colorado