



OFFICE OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

240 STATE CAPITOL

ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334

GEOFF DUNCAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

December 2, 2019

Mr. Ryan Loke
Office of the Governor
203 State Capitol
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Ryan:

As the public comment period for the Patients First Act Waiver Demonstration concludes, I wanted to reiterate my continuing support of this effort by Governor Kemp. Our existing healthcare environment in Georgia is burdened by systemic defects. As such, improved access and lower costs for quality healthcare will be permanently achieved only with purposeful, structural change. The innovative and unique proposed integration of the Georgia Pathways to Coverage Waiver with the State Relief and Empowerment Waiver provides an exciting roadmap for effective system reform and necessary relief for patients.

The Patients First Act is an integral part of a larger policy initiative to empower Georgians to improve health. Other legislation enacted in 2019 and legislative opportunities likely to present themselves in the upcoming session of the Georgia General Assembly no doubt illuminate not only the critical importance of our work to the health and welfare of our State, but as importantly underscore the necessity of the novel framework embodied collectively in the waiver proposals. The Department of Treasury and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services should act as quickly as possible to grant the application, as approval of the Patients First Act Waiver Demonstration would provide Georgia with necessary tools and flexibility to meet the healthcare needs of its citizens in the 21st Century.

Sincerely,

Geoff Duncan
Lt. Governor