

# JUSTICE IN AGING

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FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

August 8, 2018

Administrator Seema Verma  
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445–G  
200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201

Re: Letter of Support of California’s Request to Extend Authority for the Cal MediConnect Demonstration through December 31, 2020

Dear Ms. Verma,

Justice in Aging is an advocacy organization with the mission of improving the lives of low-income older adults. We use the power of law to fight senior poverty by securing access to affordable health care. We have decades of experience with Medicare and Medicaid, with a focus on the needs of low-income beneficiaries, including those dually eligible for both programs. We have worked extensively on the design and implementation of the Cal MediConnect demonstration and financial alignment initiatives nationally.

Justice in Aging writes to support California’s Department of Health Care Service’s June 20, 2018, request to extend the Cal MediCoonect duals demonstration project pursuant to Section 1115A of the Social Security Act through December 31, 2020.

The Cal MediConnect demonstration aims to improve the delivery of care for dual eligible beneficiaries through better coordinated care and improved access to long-term services and supports that help older adults and people with disabilities remain living in the least restrictive setting. Currently, over 115,000 dual eligibles are enrolled in the Cal MediConnect program and performance data to date indicates that there has been progress in meeting these goals.

We support an extension of the Cal MediConnect program to provide additional time to evaluate whether the program can build on these early successes. With the extension, we also ask for increased transparency, specifically more data to evaluate the program’s performance. Although initial studies and evaluations indicate that some progress has been made toward the demonstration’s goals, many questions remain unanswered, and increased transparency will

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help evaluate the entirety of the program. We also ask for increased oversight of changes to Cal MediConnect enrollment policies and the introduction of brokers into the program to ensure dual eligibles are not subject to harmful broker misconduct accompanied by disruptions in care.

If you have any questions with regard to our support, please feel free to contact me at [achrist@justiceinaging.org](mailto:achrist@justiceinaging.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A. Christ'.

Amber Christ  
Senior Staff Attorney