



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 03 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and Waiver and/or Modification of Certain HIPAA, and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program Requirements

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to notify you that, as a result of the consequences of the earthquake on the State of Alaska, and pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 247d, I determined that a public health emergency exists and has existed since November 30, 2018, in the State of Alaska. In addition, as required under Section 1135(d) of the Social Security Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5, I hereby notify you that, effective on December 5, 2018, I will waive or modify certain HIPAA and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program requirements as indicated on the attached document, retroactive to November 30, 2018. I certify that these waivers and/or modifications are necessary to carry out the purposes of Section 1135 of the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex M. Azar II", is written over the word "Sincerely,". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Alex M. Azar II

Enclosures