



DHS Secretary Kristi Putnam
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Hon. Jonathan Dismang, Co-Chair
Hon. Lane Jean, Co-Chair
Joint Budget Committee
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Dismang and Representative Jean:

As directed by Section 15 of Act 213 of 2022, I am reporting to Arkansas Legislative Council the status of our efforts to increase the reimbursement rates for assisted living facilities under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver.

As of the date of this letter, CMS has not approved the proposed waiver amendment. On January 18, CMS sent DHS another informal request for information (IRAI), which DHS staff are reviewing. As noted in the Department's update for January, CMS has given written confirmation that DHS may continue to pay the current payment rate until the waiver amendment is approved or six months after the Public Health Emergency ends, whichever occurs first. As I am in only my second month as DHS Secretary, I am reviewing this proposed waiver amendment, together with other items that represent potential increased costs to the Arkansas Medicaid program, to determine appropriate next steps.

Legislators are welcome to reach out with any questions, comments, or concerns. Members may contact DHS Chief of Staff Mark White at 501-320-6009 or mark.white@dhs.arkansas.gov.

Sincerely,

Kristi Putnam
Secretary of Human Services