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January 16, 2020

Seema Verma, Administrator
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington DC 20201

Dear Administrator Verma:

The Mississippi Academy of Family Physicians representing 1,332 family physicians, residents and medical students strongly opposes language in section 5 of the President's Executive Order #13890 lifting supervision requirements of non-physician providers. These regulations go against our current state law. We believe state governments are better positioned to make these determinations and administer oversight of health care professionals in our prospective states.

While all health care professionals share an important role in providing care to patients, their skills are not interchangeable with those of a fully trained physician, and this is especially true in family medicine and primary care. We believe in the team taking care of the patient, with the physician leading that team.

With seven or more years of postgraduate education and more than 12,000 hours of clinical experience, family physicians are uniquely qualified to lead the health care team. Team based care has a proven track record of success in improving the quality of patient care, reducing costs and allowing all health care professionals to spend more time with their patients.

Before imposing broad stroke changes to Medicare's supervision requirements, carefully review and consider fact-based resources, including a thorough review of the vast differences in education and training of non-physician health care professionals and the impact of the overall cost of care.

Sincerely,

William M. Grantham, MD
President

MISSION: Supporting Family Medicine physicians as they improve the health of all Mississippians.