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December 22, 2009

Tracy Plouck
State Medicaid Director
Ohio Dept. of Job & Family Services
Office of Ohio Health Plans (Medicaid)
50 W. Town
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Ms. Plouck:

On behalf of the **Nationwide Children's Hospital**, I am writing to express our support for the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services' proposal to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services for pediatric quality improvement resources through federal CHIPRA Quality Demonstration Grants.

The Ohio CHIPRA proposal aims to significantly and measurably improve care and outcomes for children in Ohio covered by Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program. Ohio's proposed model utilizes an existing infrastructure of networks within Ohio throughout the entire spectrum of children's health care. These networks include our world class children's hospitals, pediatricians, perinatal providers, state agencies, professional organizations, family advocacy groups, and researchers. This is a group that has already delivered proven results through similar efforts and has the skills, experience, passion, and dedication to work effectively to measurably improve care and outcomes for children and families.

The proposed program builds upon past and current successful collaborative efforts among these organizations to create what we believe will become a national model for quality care for Ohio's youngest population. Through the systematic application of improvement science methods, the Ohio collaboration seeks to make Ohio a leader by achieving the best birth outcomes in the country, national developmental trajectories, and making Ohio the safest place in the country for children to receive health care. And, as mandated in the CHIPRA legislation, the proposal also involves experimentation and evaluation of several promising new ideas to improve the quality of children's health care and demonstrate improved outcomes.

Nationwide Children's Hospital has a longstanding commitment to quality improvement research for our own patients and for care provided in the community. As one of the largest pediatric providers in the country, we are committed to enhancing the quality of care for every child and especially those most vulnerable in our society. Not only do we serve more than 800,000 pediatric outpatients and 15,000 inpatients each year, but we are also home to Partners For Kids, our hospital-physician organization that is an accountable care organization for almost three hundred thousand Medicaid enrolled children in the central and southeast regions of Ohio. Our ability to align incentives and quality projects is unparalleled in pediatric care. Finally, I am the current Chairman of the Board for the Ohio Children's Hospital Association and have witnessed the power of our collaborative quality efforts to date.



We strongly support the vision your team has developed and believe it will build capacity and capability to ensure quality health care and outcomes for children covered by Medicaid in Ohio. You have our strong support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Allen".

Steve Allen
CEO
Nationwide Children's Hospital