

September 24, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy:

The State of Maryland, through its Department of Health (MDH), is pleased to submit its Section 1115 Demonstration Extension Application. This demonstration permits MDH to operate HealthChoice, its Medicaid managed care program that began in 1997, along with other innovative programs and benefits. With this application, Maryland enters its eighth renewal cycle. This application builds upon the successes HealthChoice has experienced to date through projects and initiatives that aid in Maryland's goal to provide quality health care for the state's growing Medicaid population.

The HealthChoice demonstration aims to support the health of Marylanders and to generate health care cost savings at the state and federal levels. At its core, the HealthChoice demonstration is designed to improve health outcomes for eligible populations, maintain affordable whole-person care, and encourage appropriate utilization of health care services—all of which support furthering managed care efficiencies and the long-term fiscal sustainability of the Medical Assistance Program.

Maryland's existing demonstration is currently approved through December 31, 2026. I am submitting this letter requesting that an extension be approved for a five-year period, from January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2031.

The MDH staff looks forward to working with the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services staff during the Section1115 HealthChoice Demonstration Extension negotiation and approval process. If you have questions regarding this request, please contact Alyssa Brown,

100 State Circle, Annapolis, Maryland 21404 (410) 974-3400 TTY Users Call via MD Relay governor.maryland.gov Director of Innovation, Research, and Development at <u>alyssa.brown@maryland.gov</u> or Perrie Briskin, Deputy Secretary for Health Care Financing and Medicaid Director at <u>perrie.briskin@maryland.gov</u>.

Sincerely,

Wes Moore

Governor