

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2026

The Honorable Dr. Mehmet Oz
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Dear Administrator Oz,

We write in strong support of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services' (MDHHS) application to extend Michigan's Flint Section 1115 Demonstration (Project Number 11-W-00302/5) for an additional five years, through September 30, 2031.

The Flint Water Crisis was a profound failure that poisoned an entire community and eroded trust in government at every level. Families were exposed to lead through no fault of their own, and the profound negative health consequences of that exposure – particularly for children – can last a lifetime. While significant progress has been made to stabilize Flint's water system, the long-term health impacts of lead exposure do not simply disappear once infrastructure is repaired or emergency declarations expire.

This reality is why the Flint Section 1115 Demonstration has mattered and continues to matter. Since its initial approval in 2016, the waiver has served as a lifeline for Flint families who otherwise would not qualify for Medicaid, ensuring that more than 54,000 children and pregnant women have access to comprehensive coverage, preventive services, and early interventions designed to address the lasting effects of lead exposure.¹ For thousands of families, this coverage has meant timely care during critical stages of development, rather than delayed or foregone services. MDHHS's request seeks to continue these existing authorities without modification in order to maintain coverage stability and avoid unnecessary disruptions for affected families.² Allowing the demonstration to expire would result in the loss of coverage for thousands of Flint residents and undermine the long-term health protections the waiver was designed to provide.

Extending the Flint Section 1115 Demonstration reflects a continued commitment to public health and responsible stewardship in addressing the long-term impacts of the Flint Water Crisis. It recognizes that meaningful recovery requires sustained attention to health outcomes, even after emergency conditions have formally concluded. For these reasons, we urge CMS to approve MDHHS's extension request and continue this vital coverage and service pathway for Flint residents impacted by lead exposure.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this application and for your continued partnership with Michigan to protect children's health and strengthen public health.

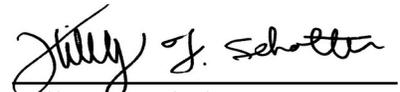
¹[1115 Waiver Demonstration - Flint Michigan Pending Extension Application](#)

²[1115 Waiver Demonstration - Flint Michigan Pending Extension Application](#)

Sincerely,



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



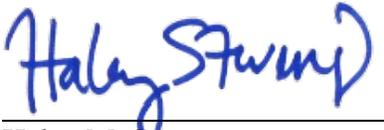
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