



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY JUDGE  
County Of Hidalgo

RAMON GARCIA  
County Judge

May 18, 2017

Mark Sanders  
Chief Executive Officer  
Superior Health Plan

Anne Rote  
President  
Molina Healthcare of Texas

Don Langer  
Chief Executive Officer  
United Healthcare Community Plan of Texas

Mary Dale Peterson, MD  
President & CEO  
Driscoll Health Plan

Dear Mr. Sanders, Mr. Langer, Ms. Rote & Dr. Peterson:

I am writing on behalf of Hidalgo County and on behalf of local patients who deserve a strong, robust and efficient healthcare safety-net system. It was brought to our attention that the hospitals in our respective communities are pursuing the development of a Uniform Hospital Rate Improvement Program ("UHRIP") that would bring in over \$40 million of federal money into our communities, *without costing state or local taxpayers a single dollar*. Because these funds would be used to support access, delivery and funding for patients in our communities, our county voted to fund these programs via our Local Provider Participation Funds ("LPPFs").

We were disappointed to learn that accessing the UHRIP payments for our safety-net system was delayed until March 2018, however, we are excited to learn that the managed care organizations ("MCOs") in our community are supportive of pursuing a pilot program for the Hidalgo Service Delivery Area (SDA) that would become effective September 1, 2017. We are grateful that the MCOs are helping support this project and our local safety-net system. It is our understanding that one MCO still has questions. Due to importance of the program to our local communities and to help resolve any outstanding issues, we are eager and happy to discuss your concerns and that of our local patients and community with you as soon as possible.

Our communities need these funds, and it is critical that all parties work out the details as soon as possible. Please let us know how we can facilitate any necessary dialogue.

Regards,

The Honorable Ramon Garcia  
Hidalgo County Judge