



State of Arizona

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Statement by Governor Jan Brewer

PHOENIX – “This morning I signed state legislation authorizing a two-year federal Medicaid waiver request from the maintenance of eligibility requirements set forth in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148).

“This process has paved the way for me to seek a waiver from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, and I intend to promptly file my request, likely on Monday. Additionally, it is my intention, within the next several weeks, to meet with U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius to discuss the dire need for the Medicaid waiver for Arizona.

“As I have previously stated, the growth in Arizona Medicaid spending is a key driver of our state’s current budget crisis. Medicaid’s explosive growth, nearing almost 65 percent over the past four years despite ongoing attempts to stem its increases, is simply unsustainable and threatens to consume the core functions of state government.

“I am mindful of the very real impacts these reductions will have, but given our state’s current fiscal situation and the solutions enacted to date, I truly believe this is Arizona’s only option to restore our fiscal stability.

“I am hopeful for the ultimate success of this process, and look forward to our discussions with Secretary Sebelius. It is my sincere belief that she will understand that Arizona’s distinctive combination of severe fiscal crisis and previously-expanded Medicaid eligibility heightens the negative impact of the maintenance of effort requirements enacted under the Affordable Care Act, and that she will grant us the flexibility we so desperately need. I have seen her willingness to provide flexibility, such as when she granted waivers to at least thirty companies and labor organizations, and I expect she will give Arizona’s request full and proper consideration.

“I am grateful for the responsible action today of the Arizona Legislature, and I remain very hopeful for ultimate federal approval of this important waiver application.”

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