



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

DEC 03 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Declaration of a Public Health Emergency and Waiver and/or Modification of Certain HIPAA, and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program Requirements

Dear Majority Leader McConnell:

I am writing to notify you that, as a result of the consequences of the earthquake on the State of Alaska, and pursuant to the authority vested in me under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act, 42 U.S.C. § 247d, I determined that a public health emergency exists and has existed since November 30, 2018, in the State of Alaska. In addition, as required under Section 1135(d) of the Social Security Act (the Act), 42 U.S.C. § 1320b-5, I hereby notify you that, effective on December 5, 2018, I will waive or modify certain HIPAA and Medicare, Medicaid, and Children's Health Insurance Program requirements as indicated on the attached document, retroactive to November 30, 2018. I certify that these waivers and/or modifications are necessary to carry out the purposes of Section 1135 of the Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex M. Azar II", written in a cursive style.

Alex M. Azar II

Enclosures