



April 27, 2016

Jim Macrae  
Acting Administrator  
Health Resources and Services Administration  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockville, MD 20857

Dear Mr. Macrae:

The American College of Physicians is concerned by the lack of action taken on reformation of Medically Underserved Population (MUP) and Medically Underserved Area (MUA) designations to better benefit intellectually and developmentally disabled (IDD) individuals. Studies have found a gap between the needs of IDD patients and the type of care they can access in their communities, resulting in poorer health outcomes and higher rates of mortality, co-morbidities, and chronic conditions. IDD patients are found to participate in their communities more when they have access to appropriate resources and are not bound by poor health conditions (Ervin 2014). We encourage the Health Resources and Services Administration to provide intellectually and developmentally disabled patients with a MUP designation in order to provide greater access to care and further opportunities for physicians.

ACP is the largest medical specialty organization and the second largest physician group in the United States. ACP members include 143,000 internal medicine physicians (internists), related subspecialists, and medical students. Internal medicine physicians are specialists who apply scientific knowledge and clinical expertise to the diagnosis, treatment, and compassionate care of adults across the spectrum from health to complex illness.

ACP is aware of some the efforts at reforming the designation process, including the Negotiated Rulemaking Committee that convened in response to Section 5602 of the Affordable Care Act. While this was a step in the right direction, we are concerned that HRSA has not acted on this issue since the committee did not come to a unanimous decision, leaving some patients to languor in communities that potentially lack the resources to offer the highest quality of care. We urge the Health Resources and Services Administration to find a solution to this important issue in order to allow intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals to access the benefits of a MUP designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne J. Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wayne" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Riley".

Wayne J. Riley, MD, MPH, MBA, MACP  
President  
American College of Physicians