

May 3, 2024

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 445–G 200
Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20201

Re: CMS–10440 Data Collection to Support Eligibility Determinations for Insurance Affordability Programs and Enrollment through Health Benefits Exchanges, Medicaid and CHIP Agencies

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

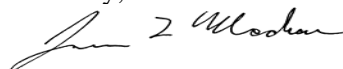
On behalf of physician and medical student members of the American Medical Association (AMA), I write to express support for the proposal by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to expand access to voter registration resources within the application process for enrolling in health insurance coverage through the federal HealthCare.Gov marketplace. The AMA believes that integrating voter registration into health insurance enrollment is a crucial step toward not only promoting civic engagement but improving health outcomes and advancing health equity.

The AMA applauds CMS for endorsing the goal of providing an opportunity for people to register to vote at the same time they apply for health coverage, in line with President Biden’s March 2021 [Executive Order](#) calling on federal agencies to “expand citizens’ opportunities to register to vote and to obtain information about, and participate in, the electoral process.” The AMA understands that the Administration faces multiple demands for the HealthCare.gov platform; however, we urge the Administration to prioritize this work.

Voter registration is integrated into the broader health insurance marketplace in the 18 states (and the District of Columbia) that operate their own [state-based health insurance exchanges](#). As a result of state exchanges accepting applications for Medicaid and other benefits, they are required under the [National Voter Registration Act](#) to facilitate voter registration. This same opportunity, however, is not available in the more than 30 states that rely on the federal HealthCare.gov platform, even though HealthCare.gov is intended to fulfill the same functions as a state-based exchange. The AMA believes that HealthCare.gov is not meeting its full potential in this area.

The AMA acknowledges that voting is a social determinant of health and significantly contributes to the analyses of other social determinants of health as a key metric. Thank you for utilizing the health insurance enrollment application as a vehicle to address historical racial gaps in voting and considering our recommendations for improvement in the data collection process. Please do not hesitate to contact Margaret Garikes, Vice President of Federal Affairs, with any questions or to discuss further at margaret.garikes@ama-assn.org.

Sincerely,



James L. Madara, MD