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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NMA Statement on the Medicaid Work Requirement

Dear NMA Membership,

The Trump Administration is working swiftly to move forward with grant approval to allow states to impose work requirements on their Medicaid programs. Kentucky received approval to move forward today. Nine other states have similar waiver requests, and more approvals are expected. This is first time in the Medicaid program's history that such a requirement has been allowed. The National Medical Association condemns the Trump Administration's approval of these cruel and inherently harmful requirements.

The Trump Administrations assumption that Medicaid work requirements are "a positive incentive for beneficiaries" are misguided and biased. A recent analysis of census data by the Kaiser Family Foundation reports that 60 percent of Medicaid's non-elderly adults already work and of those without a job, more than a third are ill or disabled, 30 percent are caring for young children, and 15 percent are in school. This action is an attack on the health and wellness of disabled and low-income Americans. Imposing such requirements could result in Medicaid enrollment denials or insurance coverage interruptions that ultimately, endanger the lives of people in need of medical care.

The National Medical Association will continue to challenge this and other policies proposed by the current administration that fail to promote equal access to healthcare and endanger the lives of the patients that we serve.

Sincerely,

Doris Browne, MD, MPH
118th President of the National Medical Association

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About the National Medical Association

The National Medical Association promotes the collective interests of physicians and patients of African descent. We carry out this mission by serving as the collective voice of physicians of African descent and a leading force for parity in medicine, elimination of health disparities and promotion of optimal health.

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