



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
*Olympia, Washington 98504*

September 15, 2011

Preston Cody, Director,  
Health Care Authority / Division of Healthcare Services  
Office of Community Services  
PO Box 45530  
Olympia, WA 98504-5530

Dear Mr. Cody:

On behalf of the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) Title X Project, I am pleased to write this letter and express overwhelming support for the continuation of the Medicaid family planning waiver known as Take Charge. For many years, the Department of Health has provided funding to local clinics to help them provide comprehensive family planning services for Washington men and women. Since 2001, Take Charge has played an enormous role in assuring their ongoing efforts.

Through Take Charge, DOH and the Health Care Authority have collaborated to assure that an increasing number of low-income Washington State Residents can access quality family planning services. The DOH Title X infrastructure gave us a base of skilled providers, and Take Charge allowed expansion of this base to include agencies that are not in the Title X provider system. The Title X agencies have, for years, provided quality family planning services without adequate funding. Local providers have produced tangible results, reaching over 200,000 men and women of reproductive age. The number of unintended pregnancies across Washington State has markedly decreased. Though funding continues to be an issue, Take Charge and Title X allow clinics to keep their doors open.

DOH has a long and successful history of working with the Take Charge program and staff. This makes us confident that continuing Take Charge would mean continuing progress toward meeting the need for comprehensive family planning services in Washington State.

Respectfully,

Sharon L. McAllister  
Manager  
Family Planning and Adolescent Health



August 22, 2011

Rebecca Burch-Mack Project Officer  
Division of State Demonstrations and Waivers  
Center for Medicaid, CHIP and Survey and Certifications  
Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services MS S2-01-16  
MS S2-01-16  
7500 Security Blvd.  
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Ms. Burch-Mack Terwilliger,

I am writing this letter to express the strong support of the Community and Migrant Health Centers of Washington State for the continuation of the TAKE CHARGE Family Planning waiver. We are collaborative partners with the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) in our shared efforts to improve the health of women, children and families in Washington State by reducing unintended pregnancy.

We understand that the Standards of Care for the Family Planning Demonstration Projects require providers to make available appropriate referrals to healthcare not covered by the family planning waiver. We can assure you that the practice is well established.

The largest provider category for the TAKE CHARGE Program is Community Health Clinics. Given the strong network of community clinics and health centers in place in Washington, those TAKE CHARGE providers who do not routinely provide primary care services to clients enrolled in TAKE CHARGE already have access to a large referral network.

The second largest provider category, Title X Family Planning Clinics, serve the largest percentage of TAKE CHARGE clients and are required by federal guidelines to coordinate referrals for women who need primary care. This referral system has been long in place.

We believe that the TAKE CHARGE Program has demonstrated a very great impact on access to and the provision of family planning services in Washington State. The Community and Migrant Health Centers of Washington strongly support the continuation of this much needed public health program. We look forward to a continued partnership with The Health Care Authority as TAKE CHARGE continues to fill the gap for family planning needs for all Washingtonians.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary C. Looker".

Mary C. Looker  
Chief Executive Officer