

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Senator of Utah
Senate Finance Committee, Chairman
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC
20510

July 14, 2015

Dear Senator Hatch,

While the undersigned often hold policy views which differ from those currently espoused by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), we write collectively to urge the confirmation of Andy Slavitt as CMS Administrator.

Mr. Slavitt's previous professional roles provide the required understanding of health markets and mechanisms, which CMS desperately needs at this time. Absent that perspective, the agency could naturally lean toward an overly prescriptive regulatory construct. Mr. Slavitt is well respected by both ideological camps and can play a constructive role in solving problems.

CMS spends more tax payer money than any other federal government agency. The Administrator's role requires a strong, seasoned executive able to make sound policy and operational judgments. Mr. Slavitt has demonstrated that ability in and out of government, in times of crisis and calm.

Congress requires a relationship with the CMS Administrator characterized by civil dialog and candor. Each of us has worked with Mr. Slavitt and believes he is able to communicate and work with Congress constructively.

Each of us has served either as Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, to whom the Administrator of CMS reports,

or as Administrator of CMS (acting or confirmed). As former high-level officials at the Department of Health and Human Services, we are uniquely positioned to understand the Administrator's role.

Thank you for considering our views. Each of us is available to members of the Senate or their staffs who wish to have personal conversations related to this confirmation.

Sincerely,

Tommy Thompson
Secretary, Department of Health and
Human Services
(2001-2005)

Mike Leavitt
Secretary, Department of Health and
Human Services
(2005-2009)

Tom Scully
Administrator, Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services
(2001-2003)

Leslie Norwalk
Administrator, Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services
(2006-2007)

Mark McClellan
Administrator, Centers for Medicare and
Medicaid Services
(2004-2006)

Kerry Weems
Acting Administrator, Centers for
Medicare and Medicaid Services
(2007-2009)