

1115a SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma Waiver Amendment

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/9/2018	Anonymous	If you work 20 hours at even \$7.25 an hour, that income exceeds your max income criterion for the "adult caretaker/relative w/child" category for household sizes of 1 and 2. Your own requirements will be literally impossible for these people to meet once their children are over age 6. Seriously?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/10/2018	ShrinkMom	I have MH/BH clients on Soonercare who are unable or should not (for emotional reasons) work. They do not qualify under the proposed exemptions. Many of them depend on their counseling to stay out of hospital or keep their children out of DHS. What is the plan for them?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	Kera Page	I think it's great for some people. Unfortunately I have two children right now that are young and I cannot work because of lack of money for daycare for the youngest. I will however go BACK to work after my cancer treatment is completed. I think In the proposal you should think about some people who cannot work but also are fighting for disability. If you kick off some people without means to pay for visits to doctors several people may deteriorate in their health. I'm 23"4 and was diagnosed with stage 3 triple negative breast cancer at 23. Without soonercare I wouldn't have been able to receive treatment. I am so thankful for soonercare and with these new guidelines I worry about people going through treatment like me, who have no physical strength to be able to endure a job. Even a part time job is very hard on someone recovering intense chemotherapy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	Stephanie D Patrick	I have fibromyalgia, Lupus, RA, heat intolerance, extreme social anxiety, have had 2 heart attacks in two years with 4 stent placements in my heart. I could go on. I have a Cardiologist, Rheumatologist, Gastroenterologist, Pain Management Dr and Regular Dr that I must see. I Do get soonercare and I Am awaiting Disability. I am a decision for disability as we speak although you have to fight for years just to get it. I am struggling now as it is. I have lost almost everything. My kids take care of me. I am drug tested every month and have paperwork from my DR stating I am unable to hold and function at any job. If I go off of my Many Needed meds including Heart Meds there is a possibility I will die. And now I am going to lose my much needed medical too? If you are able to work you'll not qualify for disability but get to keep medical. If you cant work you get no medical but disability?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	Anonymous	I believe that there are people who truly need SoonerCare for their medical needs, ie, those with cancer, mental health conditions, degenerative conditions. However, there are many, MANY, people re diving SoonerCare who are completely able to work who are not doing so. The Govenors Initiative is absolutely the right move to put	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		people back to work and off state aid. Perhaps daycare vouchers could be given to those with small children to encourage them to work as well. We have far too many people taking advantage of state and federal aid packages in this started. There are help wanted signs posted everywhere. Ones self worth is improved greatly when they are able to provide for themselves and their family.	
7/11/2018	Anonymous	I think this would be good for some situations but not all. For one, if someone works 20 hours per week even at minimum wage, they would not qualify due to being above the income limitations. Second, I am a stay at home mom of an infant. Daycare costs are too expensive and do not qualify for childcare assistance. I live in the country and hour away from a city where I could participate in the work/service requirements proposed. I would be left without health care for myself and my baby.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	L.S.	I am a single mother of 3. My 13yr old had about 30 appointments in the last 2 and 1/2 weeks. You cannot schedule all on same day and this is with 2-3 in one day which is about all we can manage. On average we do 4-7 appts a week. Every week. I am the only transportation for my other school age children and buses do not run in our area. So I also have to be able to transport them to and from school. One of my children's school also requires I do 20 volunteer hours a year or pay \$25 each hour. I am not able to work and haven't found an employer in 4 years who WILL work with me. I now have small medical problems going on but if not addressed on a regular basis could be deadly. I have to take medicine daily and have routine bloodwork. Without insurance my health and my children's would not be good. And I HAVE to take care of my health in order to take care of them. Soonercare is a blessing for us!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/11/2018	Ms. F	I have a 12, 11, 6 and 3 year old. There is no way for me to work and pay daycare for 4 kids during summer and 1 during the school year. I had to quit a job because I was having to borrow money to get gas to get to the job after paying rent and daycare bills! I was losing money trying to work! I have no family here to watch my kids. Day job, night job, FT job, PT job, same situation. What are we supposed to do? There's so much more to my personal story but bottom line, I need insurance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	Tasha Morrison	I am a stay at home mom and currently expecting twins in february I don't work do to bad anxiety and the cost of daycare being to high if I was to work I would have to put my entire pay check to daycare just to still not get soonercare because I would make to much money this isn't going to help this will hurt more families than help	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	Tasha Morrison	Who is exempted from this?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/11/2018	Teri Scroggins	I don't disagree with work or community involvement. My concern is for individuals that cannot leave the home. For example: There is a mother who cannot leave her house. She has someone buy groceries and do errands for her. She does not have internet, television, or phone. She has two children. She was a crack addict. She no longer uses and this is why she is a shut in. If she leaves her home, she is afraid that she will going back to using drugs. She wants to be a good mom and to do that she cannot leave her home. She wants to stay clean for her kids. What does she do? I don't know if she receives disability or any other assistance. However, if a case worker could assist in obtaining a computer and internet. She could work from home. She could also be part of a coommunity group and provide support to individuals in a similar situation. This is something to consider. Work does not always have to be from an employer. There are a lot of individuals that have the capability to be self employed. They just don't know how to run a business. Oh...and thus we could have a center to help them with payroll, bills, materials,	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		marketing, etc. A bunch of new jobs. How do we pay for these jobs? By taking a small percentage or a flat fee from the self employed individual's business. Just a thought...	
7/12/2018	Kate B	This is punishing the poor!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Teresa Sweetwood	I do not feel this shows any type of compassion for adults in need. Especially if they cannot work to begin with due to a physical or mental complication. Also, if the adult has children who may need day care, this makes absolutely no sense. These families are already extremely low income. I feel this is only punishing them. Whoever came up with this idea has no clue how difficult it already is to find any type of assistance. This is health insurance. Not a hand out. I read this will be HIGHLY costly updating the computer system to even verify employment or work hours since this process is all computer generalized. I find this a heartless, evil, attempt to punish those less fortunate in physical or mental ways. And most definitely if children are involved, they will suffer the most. They may even be left alone at home if there is no immediate money to pay a babysitter. And isn't that counteractive if they will then need to apply for child care assistance? Why aren't these ideas reseaeched at all before they even get this far??? Plus. The previous concerns from others who posted. A young woman who has cancer. And receiving treatment which makes a person very ill and weak. They would be forced to work? And. The income can lead them to being denied services. Which I think is what this whole issue is about. I know this doesn't sound...professional. But this sickens me. Ive worked with clients who are struggling. Most cannot even qualify for Soonercare to begin with if they have a minimum wage job. And if the adults do not have children, Ive not known of anyone to have Soonercare. This is so counter productive to assisting people in need. Its inhumane. Stop it already!! Please!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	What about people that own there own business and cheat the system still? I think they need to still work a job that you have to pay taxes. It's not fair when they lie about what they make and a few people know they do and they still don't get caught! I think they need to work at least 32 hours a week unless they can't work at all.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I do believe those whom are not disabled SHOULD be required to work a minimum of 20 per week. I work in healthcare and see a LARGE amount of patients come through the doors with Medicaid that ARE FULLY CAPABLE of working a part time job. This will eliminate people from abusing the system.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I believe people should be required to work when reviving Medicaid	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I vote yes	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I am a single mother of 3 girls. We live on a Social Security Death benefit, which is barely enough to pay the bills, but we survive. I have tried working part time twice in the last 7 years since my husband passed away, and its just not an option. I have no family within a reasonable distance that can help with getting my children back and forth to school, doctor appts, dentist appts, school functions/activities or to stay with them when they are ill or out of school for summer break, days off school, etc. Soonercare is the only form of health insurance I can get for my children and it has been a God send. Its the only assistance I qualify for and receive. If it were to require me to work, I don't know what I would do or how I would provide health care for my children. I hope you reconsider that part of your changes to the plan or, at the very least, evaluate it on a case by case basis and allow for something in the writing of the new policies for families who don't have the option of working outside the home to still be able to qualify. Thank you for your time and attention.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	Absolutely agree with working 20 hours to obtain medical care. I work 40-50 hours per week and pay an astronomical amount for my health insurance. Why should someone who doesn't do anything get medical treatment for free? I understand if it's a disability keeping them from working but in my cases, there is no disability other than pure laziness. Everyone needs to do SOMETHING to earn money and healthcare. It's time for people to start providing something to society instead of society constantly providing for them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I think the proposal is a movement in the right direction. I work in the healthcare field and the amount of people who have Soonercare and are able bidding people without jobs disgusts me. Something needs to be done!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	This would definitely hit the small companies that employ people just 2 or 3 days a week. They would lose a lot of hard working moms that are working to provide for their families. I work for a business that employs people 3 days a week for just 5.5 hours a day. Who's gonna go find	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		another job in addition to this one to make up the 3.5 hours. NO ONE! They will quit to find one job that gives them enough hours to stay within the minimum!	your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I agree with the new rule.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	Not being able to afford medical care will not change even if the one's to be affected by these changes lose their insurance. Transportation is an issue in our state. Engaging in civic activities, even working as a single parent can be challenging even in the metro. Much less rural areas. Seems it should take into account time spent for travel to and from. If a person has to spend more than an hour and half one way and try to parent, what have we solved.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Ashley Paul	I think exceptions should be made for parents seeking a higher education. I am currently in my second year of college and my husband works more than 20 hours a week. The worry for me is that—only two of my four children are biologically my husbands, so what will happen to the other two? Will they be dropped due to the fact that I am not working? Their biological father has abandoned all parental responsibilities, and has not been in the picture for years. Making this exception is crucial. It will help out families seeking to better themselves through a higher education so they won't have to rely on programs such as soonercare. With four kids and attending college full time, there is no way I could keep a part-time job or attend a community service program. It would not be fair for two of my children to be dropped from their insurance when my husband works full-time and I attend college.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Ashlee	I agree with making people work to better their lives however, now you will punish everyone who goes to work and cut their benefits off because they make more than a few hundred dollars a month. For example, now that my 16 year old daughter works, I got my soonercare benefits cutoff. I have a lot of muscle and bone issues and now there will be many medically necessary medications and testing that needs to be done, won't because I have now no insurance and too broke to afford out of pocket or a private insurance company. So make people work then it is only fair to raise to max income allowed to receive soonercare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Amber Allen	To Oklahoma lawmakers and officials, the modifications you are intending to make with Soonercare healthcare coverage for low-income and poor Oklahomans, only proves that you are finally and truly out of touch with the people of your state. It is at this time the public must realize that we have chosen the wrong leaders, for your only consistencies have been in undermining the needs of the most vulnerable people in this state: the poor. From the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		failing public services to the constant assumptions that most or all of the poor are drug-addicted, politically incompetent, or socially ignorant is further proof that YOU are the ones in need of an overhaul. Many of the poor families in the state of Oklahoma are working people, and many are seeking jobs in a harsh economy that is highly susceptible to further damage due to your inability to be morally dutiful, to the people of this state. Many of the families of Oklahoma have lineage dating back since statehood, my family being one of them. As a descendant of working Oklahomans, poor Oklahomans, Oklahomans that have contributed to the structure of this state just as well as any wealthy Oklahoman has, I can say that the decisions of the current leadership of this state, does NOT make me proud. Oklahoma's so called "leaders" need to understand quickly that the poor are not poor because they are of a beggars status, or because they don't understand productivity, they are disadvantaged because of constant economic obstacles and stagnation for progression, at the hands of those they've selected as leaders. No family of any economic background should have the worrisome trouble of having no medical coverage as they make their living the best ways they can. Do better!	
7/12/2018	Anonymous	What about people who are disabled? Not just physically disabled, but ones with invisible mental illnesses? As someone with a physical illness (Diabetes) I also have many invisible mental illnesses and an invisible physical illness (tinnitus) that keeps me from joining the work force, especially since the majority of the work force now is dealing with other people or phones. Those jobs are so stressful that it can make me physically sick. I suggest this not be a blanket requirement but a case by case basis.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	Please leave the requirements alone. Income levels should be requirement enough. If you feel someone is abusing the system that should be addressed on a case by case basis. This proposal will adversely affect thousands by unforeseen consequences.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	There should be an amendment to allow new mother's to be excluded from being forced to work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Bailey Hoffner	I love Oklahoma because people here genuinely care about the well-being of people around them. I really really really want to start seeing that translate into policy. This policy will hurt families and the most vulnerable of Oklahomans - I don't want to have to learn how members of our communities are suffering because of an overly restrictive work requirement policy. SoonerCare has been	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		extremely successful. When I needed it, it was there for me and ensured that I had quality, affordable healthcare at a time when pre-existing conditions would have made that otherwise impossible for me (2 time Hodgkins Lymphoma survivor). Once I was able to afford healthcare on my own, I felt incredibly happy knowing that my spot in the program would go on to help someone else, currently in need. It is the health of our fellow Oklahomans that we are putting at risk, the health of our neighbors, the health of families all around us. Please, for the sake of our most vulnerable citizens, reconsider the implementation of this requirement.	
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I am and have been a stay at home mother of 2 very young children for 3 years and we depend on SoonerCare for medical and dental provisions.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	Disabled individuals should be exempt	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I thinks it's a great idea to make people work/volunteer in order to get benefits. I also have some other suggestions like limiting the number of babies soonercare covers from each mom. Also put picture for identification on the food stamps card and require cashiers to check ID to limit people from selling their food stamps. And requiring a drug screen in order to get benefits.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	that's the problem with the system we have given to much free stuff out and the tax payers are the ones that suffer	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	Forcing on SC, many who are disabled,to work or do this community service is untenable and discriminatory. Forcing women who just had a baby to work can very often be against doctor's orders as well.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Jeremy Wance	I'm so tired of our state government (probably NOT the people at OKHCA that are reading this -- the fault lies a lot higher up) finding new ways to screw the poor, while handing tax cuts to the rich. How are we supposed to grow and prosper when we are punishing people who are (often) working? How does it affect our future if innocent children are denied proper healthcare? When will we realize that this is actually an issue of CORPORATE	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		welfare: companies like Wal-Mart pay less than a living wage and don't provide reasonable healthcare insurance options. They save money (read: profit) by forcing people to look to State programs for assistance. Let's start charging employers who do this! We can put the money into SoonerCare!	
7/12/2018	Iyla Griffin	I do not support the revision to the SoonerCare plan which creates the work requirement for so-called able-bodied adults. The income guidelines are so low for parents with children, this would surely make all working people ineligible for the SoonerCare benefits they may desperately need. Health care should not be a carrot to get people to work and join the economy. There are a lot of things people who are not working do for our community and their families. Health care shouldn't be something that you have to qualify for on a monthly or quarterly basis. SoonerCare should be here to assist people who have no other health care options, not to make people work, attend school, or training. Those are also great activities, but should not be qualifiers to access health care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Lori	I hope it takes in consideration parents that are on SSI and parents that are already working a main job.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Ruby	I do not support work or community engagement requirements for SoonerCare eligibility. Oklahomans deserve access to healthcare regardless of their employment status. You really want your unemployed population without insurance? This sounds like a recipe for tragedy. First, look at the mothers; childcare is so expensive that figuring out the logistics to cover 20 hours may not be feasible for some. In addition, what happens when you cut very sick people whose medical conditions don't make the approved list? What about people suffering from addiction? Mental illness? MAKE HEALTHCARE EASIER TO ACCESS and we will have a healthier state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Cheryl	I had to quit my job after my husband had a major stroke. He isn't bad enough for a nursing home but needs someone with him 95% of the time. His ssi isn't much but we are making it work. We can't afford insurance and I don't qualify for soonercare. On the other hand I know a lady that draws 3 checks a month, gets food stamps and soonercare. She is able to work at least part time but doesn't. What is fair about this. I think if a person can work they should but in some cases you also need to help those like my case, which I know that I am not the only one like this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Myaria Hamilton	So with this bill you'll be raising the requirements of the income correct? Because a minimum wage job is gonna keep you from being able to receive sooner care. Where's	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		the income requirements for this? Have you even checked on why they dont have jobs because assuming that its because they dont want to work? You get a job working at the gas station and it WILL put you over the limit you can make even as a single parent. There is no way to work around that unless your raising the income requirements too or they will not be used to determine renewals.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I do not support the work requirement revision to the SoonerCare plan. Healthcare shouldn't be attached to employment status and we as a country are doing a huge disservice by following that model. I am not totally familiar with the rules regarding both parents and SoonerCare as I am lucky enough to have insurance through my work, but what are you going to do when there is one parent working, one parent not working, and a child? Are you going to require that both parents work? Who is going to watch their child and how would they pay for that child care? Is one parent exempt and the other not? New mothers will suffer from this the most. This country doesn't seem care about the relationship between new parents and their children as new mothers are expected to be back and work and back to normal almost immediately. Post-partum care is a lot longer for women than 2 months. I could not walk for 6 weeks alone after having my child. If you end up passing these revisions, you should please consider extending the 60 days exemption for new mothers to at least 6 months. Parents deserve to be with their children and mothers deserve ample time to heal in peace and bond with their child. What we really should be working on is figuring out a way to give health care to everyone, regardless of their employment status.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Tara	Please read the above comments - each and every one of them - carefully. People have shown you the flaws in this policy change (ex. qualifying for disability but not for healthcare, working 20 hours a week and actually losing healthcare due to "income" requirements, etc.) People have shared their stories, however painful and/or humbling. Please take their words to heart, and understand that this policy will disproportionately affect single, disabled and/or ill mothers, and it will certainly disproportionately affect the poor.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Anonymous	I do not support this. I am a single mother of three. I am the type of person that walks in to receive healthcare and get looks from healthcare workers because I am on SoonerCare and look fully capable of working. Looks are deceiving. I have been having excruciating back and nerve pain and can't stand for more than 10-15mins or I'll pass out. I am not on disability and do not qualify. Do not receive child support. I am a registered voter. I have read the exemptions and my family would not be exempt. I live in a small town with not many options for work. I have no family close by. No help. Buses do not transport so I have	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to take and pick up my kids from school. My kids are 10 and older. I have a child receiving disability that I have to fight tooth and nail to keep him on and it still doesn't cover all of his medical costs. We go to between 4 and 10 appointments a week. I worked from age 16 up until about 4 years ago where no job has been able to work with me and around my child's appointments. A normal day for us; I take 2 children to school and then we get to 1st appointment of day by 745 in same town. Next is appointment in different town 25 miles away. Get done we usually have one more atleast 20 more miles away from this one. Get done get this child to school but it's almost noon and school has already served lunch so we have to eat first. I now have about 3 hours before it's time to pick everyone up. Now if I have an appointment for myself or other children add that on. Sometimes 10 a week! My family sees 3 ear doctors every 4 months, 2 heart doctors every 6 months-1 year, a speech therapist 2x a week, a Craniofacial dr every 6 months, a regular dr, an allergy dr 1x week, dentist, orthodontist every 4 weeks, a second orthodontist not as often, pain management,a urologist, a gastrologist, I then also have school care meetings and IEP meetings for 2 kids, I guarantee you I'm forgetting some like my own womanly checks and that's not even the half of it. Our food benefits keep getting cut we don't have enough groceries to last a month with coupons and growing my own veggies. There are several co pays I still have to pay being on soonercare, meds that aren't covered, and a \$1,500 device. I have to constantly fight to receive coverage for some of my child's appointments because soonercare says he doesn't qualify but drs say otherwise and are fighting for us too. Just because your an adolescent doesn't mean you should give up on their care and needs. We desperately need soonercare! I cannot work or volunteer where would I find the time and never have I found anyone who will work with me. This will greatly hurt us! Single mom's should be exempt with kids under 18. Parents who have a child on SSI should be exempt if single. The income guidelines should be enough. I approve drug testing. When I was working I only got about 14 hrs a week and lost insurance on myself, snap benefit was cut, had to pay child care, etc... There needs to be a middle somewhere where we can afford to work to get off of benefits. Raise the income level and drug test. I wish I could work. I wish working didn't create a bigger struggle. I wish I didn't have to be on benefits. I dont have any other options right now. I'm not lazy, there's not many people who could do what I'm doing. I am struggling and fear we will be without healthcare, food, and shelter. I see more homeless people in my little town everyday and that's not normal. If you want to take my healthcare away fine but don't take my childrens. However if I can't stay healthy	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		who will take care of them??? I pray you put yourselves in my shoes and try to understand.	
7/12/2018	Jessica	This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to meet the requirements, they'll earn too much to stay qualified. Most of these parents can't afford or don't have access to employer health coverage, and they won't be eligible for Insure Oklahoma. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Mary	Oklahoma is better than this. People's lives are at stake. Please do the right thing. Protect the most vulnerable among us.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Doyne	Along with education, accessible and obtainable healthcare should be priority for this state. If we want to see Oklahoma prosper into the future...these two things are going to be what makes Oklahoma great. It's ridiculous that poor working Oklahoman's are having to go uninsured. Fix this! You were put into this office to better our state. With the time you have left, please do so.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Charlie	Please rethink this proposal and help those who need healthcare assistance the most!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Teresa	This is a cruel way to treat Oklahoma citizens. It sickens me to be part of this state. There is less and less humanity in this state when ideas like this are created by out legislators and citizens believe 'able bodied' people are taking advantage of the system. Stop it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Melissa	This proposal will create a worse state of affairs for the exact families SoonerCare should be protecting. I urge you to withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Judy	Please do not change anything. I beg you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Joan	Our children in Oklahoma are worth the investment. Supporting healthcare effects education outcomes and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		parenting outcomes. A child's trajectory begins with healthcare.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	MICHELINN	This waiver proposal is mean and cruel. Jesus of Nazareth did not ask for work background checks on the people he healed. The money you would spend to set up this bureaucratic system will be wasted - it would be better spent on the healthcare people need. Healthcare is Human RIGHT!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Johnnie	This is an outrageous attack on Oklahoma families. Do you truly believe that people who live below the poverty line are trying to steal benefits from the state? I am so disheartened by this policy that reeks of the stench of our current administration in Washington, D.C. We are all citizens of the great State of Oklahoma and have a tradition of coming together to help each other in crisis. This policy is not a part of that tradition. Please reconsider this atrocious act.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Eldred	Please withdraw the current proposal for Sooner Care as it is harmful to Oklahomans and to the well-being of the State of Oklahoma. I suggest you send the directive back to the legislature with the instruction that it is simply unworkable, unconstitutional, and prohibitively expensive.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Dan	Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Bob	I am writing to express my opposition to this or any proposition that obstructs access to medical care for Oklahomans with limited financial resources. On the contrary, The Healthcare Authority should be lobbying for the legislature to expand medical services by accepting federal monies that are currently going to other states.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Terry	Stop the GOP evilness!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Gayle	The proposed new requirements for SoonerCare will hurt Oklahomans and will ultimately end up costing the state more to process all the new data for these applications (which has happened in other states that implemented a work requirement.) This proposal creates a catch-22 for	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		parents -- if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they likely will earn too much to qualify and yet with part time jobs, they don't get medical insurance coverage. So these folks join the ranks of the uninsured and will end up overwhelming emergency rooms and the hospitals pick up the cost and end up passing that on with higher rates for those with insurance. An Oklahoman taking care of her children and elderly mother should not have to worry if she can afford a doctor when she's ill. A father with an irregular work schedule should not have to choose between a meal and his insulin. That's why SoonerCare is there to ensure that our most vulnerable families can get essential health care in time of need. From all I have read, the majority of people on SoonerCare are not freeloaders and have legitimate reasons why they need access to SoonerCare. This idea that SoonerCare is loaded with lazy people who just don't want to work is a fallacy. And ultimately if this proposal is enacted, it will end up costing the state more money than SoonerCare itself just to process the applications. Of course, the hope of the proponents of this change, is that people simply won't apply. But the end result of that will be to transfer the burden of cost to hospitals and especially in rural areas, force the shut down of those hospitals. The state has an obligation to protect Oklahomans in need!	your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Nick	SoonerCare is supposed to be there for families who can't earn enough to afford health insurance. Demanding they work contradicts the very mission of the program. This is transparently trash, designed to funnel more money away from people who have none, and you know it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Brenda	Mary Fallin! You have without a doubt been the worse governor in Oklahoma history. You have disappointed me time and time again. But this is an all-time low even for you. If your goal was to make the state of Oklahoma the laughing stock of the nation and to make our citizens the last in every indicator, you have succeeded. It's time for you to for the very first time to put Oklahoma first. Do not hurt the most vulnerable in our state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Jane	This proposal is flawed and in the end will be costly to implement without producing cost savings. Bad policy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Andrew	Medicare is already too restricted, we need MORE health care coverage for poor, even those not working or declining to work for whatever reason. Otherwise the rest of us pay for their ER treatment through higher costs to us. We need to expand Medicaid in OK, just like most other states.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/12/2018	Whitney	I do not support your Soonercare work requirements, especially until more research and information is provided. Please research and identify how many individuals will be affected by this cut, and what their general circumstances are, before advocating for this policy change that is against your mission and hurtful for Oklahoma families in poverty.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Kathy	Please do something to help these people not further injure them. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Stephanie	As a single mother bringing home \$900/month from my full-time job in 2002, I found myself unexpectedly pregnant. (My then-husband had left me with out 2 yo son to go use Meth before we had discovered the pregnancy. I was forced to take maternity leave before the baby came because of an underlying heart condition. While on leave, I lost the DHS benefit that covered my toddler's daycare (because naturally, chasing a toddler is better for my heart than my desk job was.). As I used up nearly 6 of the planned-for 12 weeks of leave, I found out that with very careful budgeting and money-management, taking full advantage of all available social services, I could bring in about \$800/month from food stamps and student loans. This plan enabled me to spend the next two years as almost a 'stay-at-home' mom, all during my daughter's infancy, and until my oldest began pre-K. I attended night classes so family members could watch my kids, and I graduated with my Bachelor's Degree in 2004 . Since that time, I have worked fulltime for the Office of Juvenile Affairs. In my capacity as a Juvenile Justice Specialist, I have enrolled a couple hundred troubled youths into Medicaid/Soonercare over the past 14 years. I have helped families figure out how to get medical needs for non-insured adults, and I have seen the desperation on the faces of mothers whose children are undocumented and therefore do not qualify. In a State like Oklahoma, where the Department of Corrections is the biggest mental health provider, we simply must do everything we can to provide adequate insurance for as many people as possible. These policies of defunding Planned Parenthood, refusing the Federal money on the table for Medicaid expansion, and now adding ridiculous work requirements merely provide soundbites for a Tea-Party base that is dying. These draconian policies further widen the gulf between the 'haves' and the have-nots'. These policies cost very real people their very lives. You see, during my period of being on my own little 'sabbatical' from work, I was working, 25 hours a week as	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		an unpaid intern. How could I, a single mother of 2 pre-school-aged children have possibly gotten a 40 hour per week job and carried my other coursework and completed the internship? I could not have. And to have some person sitting in DC or OKC mandate me to do so would have meant that I forgo my education. I repudiate that thought, because of the youths and families I have helped with my education over the past 14 years. Please, leave it as it is. There are enough hoops and hurdles in place to accessing healthcare as it is without adding another layer.	
7/12/2018	Diana	Medicaid is for poor states like Oklahoma. Please apply for it!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Cynthia	Please protect soonercare for Oklahomans in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Beatrice	I am an educator of 25 years, and I've witnessed how lack of insurance affects thousands of kids in this time. The idea of insurance, a plan to help with the inevitable illnesses of childhood, should not be something beyond order he financial reach of the many, reserved for the few. But that is the reality for too many Oklahoma families. The fact that people can't afford medical insurance is absurd in our society. Where else is the basic tenet of health tied to the moral implications of work but the USA? If an individual is unable to work or does work doesn't mean that children should be in need over basic health care needs. I've had too many sick kids come to school because going to the doctor is expensive or parents cannot afford to miss work. Already those who are most vulnerable are excluded from basic health care because of these reasons. To reduce the healthcare safety net that benefits thousands of Oklahoma kids it to increase our already stratified healthcare system as a state. How does that help Oklahoma thrive? It doesn't. SoonerCare is a neccessity for many Oklahomans. How foolish and cruel to deny those in greatest need the health insurance opportunity to care for their families. I want to live in a state where children are cared for and have the healthcare to grow and become thriving members of society. Lawmakers should want the same, and shame on them if they don't.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Linda	Healthcare is a basic need and should not be subject to politic winds. Parents and grandparents who care for	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		children and/or the elderly or disabled may not always be able to work the number of hours to stay on SoonerCare or they may be cut off because they make too much money. Access to primary healthcare is the right thing to do for parents, their children and, in the end, for all Oklahomans!	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Deanna	I am writing to ask you to drop proceedings to implement a work requirement in the Sooner Care and Medicaid programs. There is ample evidence from other states that this requirement results in the loss of healthcare for too many children and families. The work requirement does nothing to help people find, qualify for, or keep a job, and it does not require employers to do their part in providing adequate hours or the flexibility needed for a parent or caregiver, or for someone with chronic health problems. The work requirement program as currently written is ambiguous and cannot be applied in a way that won't result in families in need losing healthcare. Caring for the health of the people in our state is there first step to increased quality of life and productivity! Please withdraw the Medicaid waiver request.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Harold	I believe health care is a right and an obligation for society to provide. The proposed work requirements punish those who need help the most and make care impossible to receive. Please reject the SoonerCare proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Edmund	Do not make it more difficult for Oklahomans that need SoonerCare for getting it. To punish those who are in need is simply not right. As it is written this law is unfair. Do the right thing for needy Oklahomans....the elderly....children. Do not be draconian in trying to rip SoonerCare away from those who need it the most.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Cynthia	I am writing to ask you not to tie Sooner Care to proof of employment. It adds a layer of hardship on many people who are already in a fragile position. It adds a layer of bureaucracy to our state system that would probably outweigh the value of its cost to state taxpayers. Of course we want people who are able to work, to get a job and be a productive citizen. We just should not tie it to receiving health care services.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Carol	The proposed Medicaid work requirement will probably end up costing the state more in bureaucratic management (money we do not have) than it would save by denying health care to the most vulnerable people in our state. It is a heartless and poorly thought-out proposal that needs to be laid to rest.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Jamie	It's hard enough to make it in the world we live in now. Please dont make it any harder by cutting anything else.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/12/2018	Christina	Please stop punishing poor sick people of America!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Roger	Protect sooner care, a lot of people with kids,and disabled need this medical coverage. Cut legislatures salaries instead	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Marilyn	The way this is written it is subject to massive judgmental punitive action. Please, reconsider and stop this horrible measure! We do not need to cripple the most vulnerable with red tape .. Funny how we are considering placing regulations for care on humans yet, it was worth a dog fight to get the EPA to back down.. Please take care of human beings.. they are an investment too. Stop this awful measure now!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Jodie	The state's new SoonerCare proposal will continue to dismantle the medical care needed for Oklahoma families and it should be withdrawn. Systems begin with families and are the primary system help shape and build that larger systems we all operate within, such as educational/ other youth services, medical/ hospital, behavioral health/ drug and alcohol services, state and local governments including Child Welfare and Dept. of Human Services. It is our duty as citizens to work as a system to help provide and ensure everyone has access to proper and affordable medical care. What hurts on hurts us all and the systems either get stronger with healthy persons or weaker with improper care. Let's work together to make our state of Oklahoma and it's future a stronger state!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Darlene	Sooner Care must be protected for the thousands of people in Oklahoma who have no other hope for coverage.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Dale	SoonerCare is not a jobs program. SoonerCare should help people and not punish people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Brandy	Oklahoma's Medicaid policy already has very low income guidelines to follow for adults to receive healthcare. Anyone making less than \$300-\$400 a month and cooperates with child support are the ONLY adults getting Medicaid unless they are disabled or elderly. Your new idea to institute work requirements would make all of the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		adults covered currently lose their coverage. Unfortunately, in Oklahoma we don't cover very many non-disabled adults anyway. You need to start treating people the way you want to be treated. Healthcare shouldn't be an entitlement that you use to penalize people.	
7/12/2018	Kelda	I run a small organic farm and because my daughter receives Sooner Care and because my income is constantly fluctuating and organic foods drastically undervalued in Oklahoma, I receive sooner care as well. My boyfriend and I work long hours, both at the farm as well as off, having 6 income streams between the two of us, as well as long hours volunteering in the community running the farmers market and serving on the city council. This last weekend, as we were watching the neighbors fireworks, I was holding my daughter in my lap when I was hit in the eye by a firework. I'm curious how lack of health insurance coverage would help me recover faster so I can get back to working, or how my daughter would be better cared for by a mother who had trouble finding medical care in the very quick timeframe necessary for me to regain my sight. I also understand that there's been very little work done on the reporting forms and that OHCA is unsure how to fund the time needed for this extra reporting. My reporting, because of self employment and numerous changeable income streams, already takes extra time to explain and get the forms right. I'm happy to add in my volunteer hours but worry that the whole premise is expensive and unnecessary. Oklahoma has one of the highest uninsured rates in the country. My uncle died this past winter basically due to lack of preventive primary care. The state policy on healthcare is inhumane and growing more inhumane if this new change is put into effect.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Diane	Daycare is more per month than a lot of mothers earn. Most cannot afford a car but you don't want to raise minimum wage. This is a propaganda and heartless move to deny poor and sick people health care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Robert	Respectfully, please reject the deeply flawed proposal to deeply cut coverage for Oklahoma Parents who do not report enough working hours every week. Please go back to work and produce something of value and passes the smell test.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Stephanie	Do not set minimum work hours standards for parents of medicaid recipients.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/12/2018	Ruth	Cutting SoonerCare will only ultimately hurt the children of Oklahoma that now have coverage. Please reconsider this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Kevin	Protect sooner care!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Mary	It's already tragic enough for people suffering difficult mental or physical illnesses without torturing them further by taking away their health care	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Amanda	I understand that there are people who abuse the system. However I seriously doubt it is what the powers that be say it is. They are just spewing propaganda because I have not seen any evidence that it is as widespread and as much of an epidemic outside of some random numbers with no specific citation of the source of that data. I demand that the public be provided LEGITIMATE data that either confirms that claim that has lead us where we are now, or refutes it. This is not just something to give a quick fix - we are talking about who knows how many people could be affected. People who do actually need these services. We are trying to make Oklahoma better, and we need your cooperation. Do not jump the gun on something like this, please. We need to know exactly how many will be affected and if they deserve that or not. Oklahoma has been the bottom of the nation for a long time and we are working our way up. You must not do this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Tara	This change is unconscionably tricky and impossible to apply fairly. Do better. Too many Oklahomans are relying on you for this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Leah	It is beyond heartless to kick people off of healthcare just to cater to oil and gas donors. Knock it off.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Julia	I was cut from Medicaid due to misinformation about the financial status that was reported. I lost the paid premium for medicare & copay for medical service. Social Security held out 3 months back premium for medicare, I don't	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		understand how I survived that month, but by the grace of God. I do believe the cuts the POLITICIANS are asking is punishing the low income people more than is necessary. Why don't you all live under the rules & regulations you put on the general public, I don't believe any one of you would make it!!	your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Lisa	Governor Mary Fallin, Stop playing games with people's lives!!! It is your job and duty to protect those who live in your state. Start doing your job before you leave office. We have taken notice and we will not hire your cronies any longer!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Karen	Please protect the families and caretakers coverage. Please keep Soonercare the way it should be, taking care of our state's citizens. Not hurting citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Margie	I became a single parent when my husband died while my children were in junior high school. My daughter is a single parent trying to make ends meet. I don't know how I or she would have survived without the assistance of family. There are however many single parents that do not have the kind of support we have had. To force single parents to work once children reach school age is totally unrealistic. Too often part time schedules are at the discretion of the employer and the hours that children are in school are often not the hours employers most need. Part time work puts greater stress and financial burdens on single parents or even families living at the poverty level. This work requirement need to be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Donna	Governor - I totally understand the philosophy behind making 'able-bodied' people work. However, how about the thousands who have mental health issues but that are not diagnosable? Or those without skills and who live in remote small towns? Or those who are both unskilled & have physical issues that keep them from jobs but those issues are not 'bad enough' to make them not 'able-bodied'? I know many families like this and if you do this, they will now be unemployed, without insurance, once again flooding our hospitals as non-paying customers. This will put a burden on the hospitals, possibly closing some of our few remaining hospitals. Please do not require the work mandate for the poor to have insurance! Thank you so much.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Gretchen	I have a child with Prader-Willi Syndrome who is on a higher functioning level than many of those who have this syndrome. Many of our parents in OK are single parents trying to raise these fragile children and work. Care is 24/7 unless the child is in school. The work requirement for those on SoonerCare is unreasonable and a punishment! I	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		know that there may be a cheater here or there but on the whole people want to work and be able to care for their families. And what about the elderly? Do we leave them alone in their homes to fall and then die? The end result of this new rule will just trickle down in other costs to the state due to no health care coverage. Please reconsider this destructive bill. I don't see that questions have been answered regarding administrative cost either and how to train parents in the new paperwork system. Please leave well enough alone.	
7/12/2018	Tiffany	Please protect sooner care	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Dayla	Leave healthcare for the elderly, disabled and or poor alone. Stop just stop. Benefits should be better. Stop making everything so hard for us. WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU PEOPLE?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Debbie	Protect Soonercare for 1,000 of people. Everyone should have easy access to healthcare without any job requirements. Not a single individual needs to fall through the cracks. The cost of this proposed program far outweighs any minuscule savings.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Sean	Don't do this. We should focus on the implementation of Medicinal Cannabis! And how insurance companies are going to cover this medicine! Smoking a naturally occurring flower should not be banned. Insurance companies may even start saving money of cannabis is used for treatments!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Brett	I was very disappointed to hear about this proposal. I understand the desire to spend money wisely, making sure that waste is taken away so the money is used to maximum effect. In my opinion this proposal does not attack wasteful spending, it just attacks people already straining under heavy medical costs. There are people who abuse this system. They are not the majority. Most people in this state on soonercare are kids. The next highest group are elderly and disabled people. You will find some abusers of the system with this proposal, and you will save the money they were trying to scam you out of. You will drastically alter many more legitimate families that depend on soonercare for survival. I love seeing taxes taken out of my check, knowing that because of that some kid can get glasses or a kidney transplant.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Please, look elsewhere for savings. Everyone I talk to agree on taxes for 3 things. Kids, roads, and safety are never something to compromise in search of efficiency.	
7/12/2018	Deborah	I am writing to ask that you act cautiously when enacting the work requirements. I see SoonerCare as a vital safety net for vulnerable citizens. I do not see the massive abuses this supposedly seeks to alleviate. As a teacher I see the need for this program more than ever in my 30 years. I know that my neediest students' parents are working but probably lack the sophistication or technical skills or access to reliable and reportable information to report adequately. I know that their hours and schedules are highly variable. I also know from first hand experience in my own family that families with disabled members are unable to work and stay home as caregivers because they cannot afford much more costly, both to them and taxpayers, out of home or in home care. THIS IS AN ATTACK ON THE WEAKEST OF OUR STATE. PLEASE WITHDRAW THIS PROPOSAL.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Brenda	Please don't penalize people who are doing their best to get by. Who will get hurt is the children. It's not their fault.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Lee	Thank you for taking comments on the work requirement for Medicaid. I appreciate the opportunity to share my thoughts. I live in Cleveland, Oklahoma in Pawnee County. I have worked at a local counseling agency, and I currently work at a local hospital. From my experience in my own community, I have two main concerns: How will the lack of job opportunities be addressed, and how will the lack of reliable transportation be addressed in expecting low-income residents to meet the work requirement? I know that Oklahoma has recognized and addressed the issue of transportation for low-income families needing medical services by providing a transportation through Sooner Ride. Will a similar option be available for those needing rides to work? I also know that one of our main challenges as a community is fostering economic development and job growth. We need more industry and more jobs in our rural community. What will the work requirement do to insure that jobs are available, and, furthermore, to insure that Medicaid recipients have the training and ability to apply and get the jobs? I've read that one option might be volunteering. Who would coordinate volunteer programs? Would new programs be created in communities in order to meet that requirement if existing programs do not have the resources to staff and oversee volunteers?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		While I appreciate the idea of putting people to work, I wonder if those who are pushing the requirement have lived in rural Oklahoma without transportation, without the money to invest in work clothing, without a computer to apply online, and, finally, without enough job opportunities to go around.	
7/12/2018	David	Please protect SoonerCare for Oklahomans. The restrictions being considered would take away necessary care and would add administrative costs. If Oklahoma truly supports “family values”, these work requirements will NOT be enacted.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	JJ	Once again, Oklahoma is heading in the wrong direction. The SoonerCare work requirement unjustly affects those with unstable or inconsistent job schedules, and jeopardizes kids whose parents or caregivers could lose medical coverage. Instead of punishing the poor and sick, we should be accepting the federal Medicaid expansion to get 200,000 more Oklahomans covered and relieve the strain on our rural hospitals. Oklahoma has some of the friendliest people in the world, yet our legislature routinely levies reckless, harmful, and mean-spirited laws like this. Not only do these old-fashioned ideas harm our state’s reputation, they also harm real Oklahomans, including our neighbors and friends who live with very real and sometimes private struggles.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Sherri	People that qualify for Sooner Care often have jobs that are seasonal, or have fluctuating hours. The pay is often not high enough to pay for childcare. The work requirements will keep people from accessing health care because of so many hurdles this population faces. Please protect Sooner Care for Oklahomans.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Jeri	Please reconsider your changes to Sooner Care. After 36 years as a Social Worker/Supervisor in DHS, I was able to see first hand how critical this program is to Okla.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Karen	Please look seriously at the needs for the under privileged financially and medically. Our least capable need our support and help the most. As a stroke survivor with two special needs grandchildren I do not know what we will do if services and finances are cut. One grandchild have working parents who can't make enough to pay for all the services they require. Please look for ways to protect the soonercare program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Marilyn	Please think of low income people. If they work an earn more money, they may not qualify for Sooner Care. Mothers and caregivers of elders can’t work. What can people do to have healthcare? Work? \$7.50/hr does not	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		stretch very far. Please make regulations as fairly and carefully as you can	your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Edmee	Protect Sooner Care for Oklahomans	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Cheryl	I am writing this to voice my protest on the proposed work requirements on Medicaid recipients. The new requirements are placing soonercare recipients in a catch-22 so that if they work the required hours they will no longer meet soonercare requirements. If they can not due to working irregular hours or attempting to provide childcare while working or caring for an elderly parent, they will also be pushed off soonercare. Either way these new requirements do little more than cause several thousand soonercare recipients and children to lose their insurance. This, in turn, places a terrible burden on struggling families as well as hospitals who can not care for more uninsured which in turn affects the economy in Oklahoma. This is designed to kick people off Soonercare and is wrong! We already know States doing best economically accepted Medicaid expansion. This is the opposite and will benefit no one. It is also ethically wrong to place vulnerable families in an untenable situation and place thousands of children at risk. It is certainly not the Oklahoma standard that Oklahoma prides itself on. Instead it is punitive! I ask that you consider this! This will have a negative impact on our State.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Sarah	I am 42-years-old and have Melanoma that has spread to my brain. I, also, have a 15-year-old son and a 4-year-old daughter. Recently, 1 of 4 tumors in my brain started hemorrhaging and I ended up in ICU and then physical therapy. I had lost complete use of my right side.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Kristi	I believe this is shortsighted - so very many people fighting health issues (mental, chronic, etc.) that undermine their ability to work - will the disability system be improved in order to accommodate those that need to prove their inability to work? Disability attorneys are expensive, too. My second issue is with the jobs themselves. Is there consideration for whether the family will even break even after child care and/or loss of any other benefits? I'm not against the idea, just want a holistic plan.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Cathy	There is no evidence that taking away coverage from a person who is unable to work enough will either increase work or improve health. Instead it actually harms both. This proposal isn't good for struggling families in Oklahoma. We are already a non-expansion state. We should pass a Jobs program by fully funding the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. 85% of working-age SoonerCare members are already or were recently working. SoonerCare is a healthcare program, not a Jobs program. The state doesn't need to create more barriers to health than it already has by not expanding Medicaid in the state. Lots of people already don't qualify because of this. Why are we trying to hurt the people who need it the most, and CAN'T work due to chronic conditions, or are caring for children or aging parents? Please reconsider this proposal. Thank you.	
7/12/2018	Katherine George	As a general rule, the work requirement is ridiculous. There are people who, because of their health, could not participate. There are people who, because of their financial situation, could not put their kids in daycare to be able to leave their home to work or volunteer. You simply cannot make this universally applicable!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Bob Hughes	At a time when the state is poised to potentially elect a governor who states that he will start the process to EXPAND medicaid in Oklahoma on his first day in office I believe the current state administration is moving backwards with the apparent presumption that poor people are lazy and don't deserve healthcare unless they work X amount of hours weekly, etc. Instead of trying to deny healthcare to 100,000+ Oklahoma citizens the state healthcare program should have been expanded. Healthcare should not be denied because of work status!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Ms.Davis	This is so wrong I am not able to work right now due to an injury. If the governor and her staff would stop stealing money from the state then they would not have to take from the people who really need it. I have been struggling since Mary Fallin has been in office. Why kick people when they are down even more.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/12/2018	Keri	I love this! To many take advantage of our system. My husband and I work and still don't make enough to pay for insurance. You should have to work for it. I've known to many who live in free housing free insurance, phones and wifi and do nothing and don't plan on it. Its draining tax payers money. Of course there are exceptions but I've never met one yet.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Anonymous	I think this a GREAT idea! I work in a pharmacy & There are SO many people on soonercare or have children on soonercare. I feel like I see more soonercare than I do private insurance. And that seems crazy to me! I think too many people abuse the system and it's easy for them to do so. I think implementing this would be very beneficial for not only tax payers, who pay for these people, but also in the long run, good for the people on soonercare whom this would be affecting.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Anonymous	If you want to save money START by removing the people who are working, can insure their children through the work insurance but prefer Soonercare as they do not have to pay for that insurance. I don't believe it is fair	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		when you are employed, can afford the health insurance on your children but can get soonercare instead and just pay insurance on you and your spouse. What is wrong with that picture as many do NOT HAVE INSURANCE THROUGH THEIR JOBS!	your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Anonymous	i Was diagnosed with bipolar I have high anxiety they told me I could've drawn unemployment but I chose not to I have a set schedule because changing my schedule sets me into panic I pretty much do the same thing every day it is hard to function at times but I manage I do have a restriction on my work to keep me on a predictable schedule I see a psychiatrist every six months to make sure I am doing alright I am losing my job in 2 weeks due to a shut down I hope I can adjust to the change but only time will tell I don't have kids if I did I could see it adding to my anxiety I think the best thing to work on is the cost of are medical expenses I think it is ridiculous at the cost of medicine and hospital bills I know I would want to live if I had cancer but I would hate to go through the treatments and leave any burdens on my husband I hope you reach a good decision that won't hinder anybody that does need it	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Anonymous	It is always the most vulnerable who suffer. Our governor has no clue what life is like for the poor, the oppressed, the sick. When you have everything handed to you and you want for nothing, it's easy to judge the less fortunate, call them lazy. Say to themselves" why don't poor people just get a job?" Well, you can't force anyone to give you a chance at working, now can you? I suppose there are plenty of service jobs in which we poor can subjugate ourselves and defer our human dignity to the wealthy in an effort to scrape together enough change to buy a dollar store bar of soap, so we don't offend the delicate sensibilities of people who actually matter and deserve to live. Really, people in power are in power because they are sociopaths who have no problem hurting others for personal profit or to stay in power. This is the reason for the new law, an attempt at killing off undesirables, just like the Nazis did.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Grady	I have tried many things to get my daughter to work, do anything, but she is unable to do it. I even had her work as a volunteer at a hospital giving out reading material to patients but she could not handle even that. She cannot drive so I am concerned on how she will get to where she needs to "work". I think you should really take a look at the effect this will have on people's lives before such a change is enforced. thanks.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Lee	In my comment about Medicaid in healthcare settings what I want to convey is the question of whether or not the OHCA could partner with existing Medicaid recipients in reducing ER spending for example.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/13/2018	Mary	There are already vetting processes for SoonerCare, to prevent abuses. The people who are eligible really need it. We're already having health care crises in Oklahoma. Please don't add more.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Elizabeth	You have got to protect the most vulnerable of us. This proposal will not just hurt Oklahoma, it will destroy lives. Healthcare should be a right in the first place.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Amy	My sister has COPD, heart failure, and diabetes amongst other issues and lives in Oklahoma. She NEEDS to know that her insurance is going to be there or she will DIE.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Starla	People need healthcare please reconsider the proposed changes or the outcome will be deadly for our most vulnerable citizens	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Celeste	Please do Not pass this into law! Think of all the businesses that are affected by the economy and cut shifts...often there Is no way for a family to choose or be guaranteed 20 hours...& they need this coverage MOST!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Sara	Those who qualify for SoonerCare should receive it; a work requirement is a bad idea because people, like my husband and best friend, who have chronic illnesses cannot work consistently. They would love to. They would give anything to. But they cannot. Who would hire someone who can't commit to always showing up because their flares are unpredictable, they have at least one doctor appointment a week that is often inflexible, and they can't concentrate on certain required medications? Please reconsider a work requirement. It's not only illogical, it's inhumane.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Jaimie	I worked in healthcare in okla for 35 years and have witnessed the inequity of services received by patients who have no healthcare insurance and those who do. Making a work requirement for Oklahomans who must care for the elderly and disabled children will mean no care for them. Oklahoma should have opted to expand Medicaid not restrict it. Please do not punish those already struggling to survive	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Amanda	As an early childhood educator in a Title I School, I have had first hand experience of seeing how SoonerCare has benefited many of my students. This is a vital program for	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		so many families. Every child deserves the right to be healthy. Please don't take that right away or even make it more difficult.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Sammye	The work restriction will only create increased medical debt, because the only resort will be emergency rooms. Please do the right thing for the citizens of Oklahoma	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Dawn	I am whole-heartedly against these new work requirements. These rules will lead to bad outcomes for families. Please reject these changes.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Eden	Healthy people work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Marilyn	Consequences of gutting healthcare amongst the most vulnerable are known. Overflowing emergency rooms, nursing homes overflowing with patients, but this one is especially egregious.. We promise moms who choose to carry a pregnancy and deliver a baby , they will have enough support.. and this.. Stop punishing people with things that hurt them, and work on things that help lift. Accept the government's money offered with medicare too.. this false pride is hurting people who desperately need help. Our healthcare in Okla. is evidenced in so many ways.. Please don't make this awful decision.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Billie	Taking health care from our most vulnerable is unconscionable. Take care of those who cannot take care of themselves by removing unrealistic harmful barriers to Medicaid.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Jenna	The conversation around Medicaid right now should be how to expand it, not reduce it. It is a safety net for thousands of people who have no other option and should not be taken away. Spend a day in someone's life who is on it and see what it's like. They aren't freeloading, they are trying to survive.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Ashley	My 7 or old daughter is epileptic and ADD SoonerCare has helped out alot with her medication for epilepsy Oxcarbazapine 5mL its expensive. How do you expect single parents whose struggling to be able to pay for that type of medication? We low incomes families need SoonerCare and all 3 of my kids have been on this since they were in my stomach. Instead of taking away the insurance that helps us that are struggling, work towards	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		making more jobs available and better pay instead of making us suffer. Im a single mom of 3 and I need this more than anything don't take it away and make our children suffer.	
7/13/2018	Tara	I do not support a work requirement. In many communities there is a shortage of daycare providers, especially during non-business hours.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Hayley	Being able to access a doctor or get prescription medication is so important. A person that is unhealthy or struggling with a condition or chronic illness, will affect a person's ability to work and take care of family. Why would the Oklahoma legislature want to contribute to hinder a persons ability to that? This proposal will also cost all taxpayers more for administration costs. This is purely to degrade and dehumanize poor people that need help the most. As Oklahomans and Americans having access and affordable healthcare should not be denied but be treated as a necessity not a privilege.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Sarah	We do very little in this state to take care of our own. Soonercare is one of those few things. Please consider the children and elderly who will be negatively effected by this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Jamie	This is a horrible policy change that will disenfranchise many people who desperately need help and can't afford the sky-high costs of decent medical coverage. Stop trying to punish the poor - it's indecent.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Sacra	SoonerCare proposal will harm Oklahoma families and should be withdrawn! This proposal is deeply flawed - go back to the drawing board!!!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Suzanne	Please protect our most vulnerable friends and neighbors!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Howard	Fully support a work requirement for those that are truly able to work	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/13/2018	Alisha	SoonerCare is important coverage for many families in our state. There are many children and families who would be unable to afford care without this vital program. Working Oklahoman's, as well as the elderly and disabled would not be able to afford adequate care without SoonerCare. Please save this vital program as is. I DO NOT support this waiver proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	J. David	My four year old grand-daughter's father is incarcerated in OK for a petty drug possession charge and we rely on Sooner Care for her Insurance coverage. Please protect our most vulnerable citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Steve	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Stillman	We know this will take healthcare away from our most vulnerable Sooners. Please stop this. It's bad policy, bad economics, and unethical. Treat your neighbor as you wish to be treated. Remember that hardship is one personal disaster away.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/13/2018	Margo	Work requirements will hurt Oklahoma adults, children and healthcare providers. These should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Theresa	It is very important that we, the people of Oklahoma, support the most vulnerable. We need to protect Soonercare for our most vulnerable people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Harriette	As a Pediatrician who has worked for years with Medicaid recipients, I URGE YOU NOT TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS. Most of these families have at least one member who works. However the work is tenuous at best, off and on due to the needs of the employer, not the worker's desire to work. Or the work is seasonal, or the worker becomes ill and misses a few days and then even loses the job. Additionally, families move frequently and the paperwork for the work requirements may not be able to keep up with the moves. The sheer amount of paperwork to report part-time and intermittent work, multiple small jobs, etc. would be a challenge for a well-educated, sophisticated person. Oklahoma already has an efficient way to vet and track Medicaid recipients, one that I'm told has been a model for other states. It will be a bureaucratic burden on already underfunded and stressed state Medicaid and Health departments. This makes no financial or administrative sense. I URGE YOU TO REJECT THE WORK REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAID RECIPIENTS IN OKLAHOMA.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Jean Kelsey	I oppose work requirements for SoonerCare recipients. The income requirements for the parent/caretaker group is already very restrictive. The mission of OHCA is to provide access to health insurance, not to implement jobs programs. Getting a part-time job that does not offer health insurance but causes the loss of their SoonerCare coverage for being over-income helps nobody. Having to pay for daycare for children when school is out only makes a bad financial situation worse. From an agency perspective, Oklahoma should be proud to have led the nation in online enrollment. Online enrollment is currently very cost effective, with a low error rate. Tracking member work/volunteer hours will change that and cost taxpayers more than covering the medical care of the current caretaker caseload. Implementing work requirements is a bad policy step.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/13/2018	ML	It is disgraceful to live in a state that does not take care of its most vulnerable people. The proposed rule does not allow exemptions for those who have no transportation, have mental or physical issues that preclude them from working, or address day care requirements for children during the summer or after school. We are talking about people who are just barely getting by as it is. No one should lose coverage due to having to work a part-time, minimum wage job. Health care should be a right, not a privilege. We should be expanding Medicaid, not arbitrarily taking it away from those who need it most. This policy is cruel and heartless. We can and must do better for Oklahoma families and neighbors.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/13/2018	Anonymous	Given the small number of people not already working (or exempt from the proposed requirements) while on Soonercare, the proposal seems to spend a lot of taxpayer money putting time and bureaucratic hurdles in front of community members who are already complying with the requirements. It's a solution without a problem. I'd prefer those dollars go to expand the number of people served by Soonercare. Health is more important than work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/14/2018	Tom Taylor	By changing the rules for categorical eligibility in this way, you put the clients in the position of losing financial eligibility. This policy is either not well thought out or its true intention is to remove as many non-disabled non-elderly adults from the program as possible by making it nearly impossible to maintain both categorical and financial eligibility.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/15/2018	Anonymous	I urge you to reject this! I am 35 years old. I worked as a nurse as long as I could until I had a horrible exacerbation of my MuSK + Myasthenia Gravis, and was told by my physicians I could not and should not return to work or college. (I was even trying to further my education in nursing) I also have Fibromyalgia, Rheumatoid Arthritis, Scoliosis, Hypothyroidism, Carpal Tunnel, Neuropathy in my hands and feet, Seizure Disorder, GERD, Depression, and vitamin B12 deficiency. A lot of these are autoimmune disorders which have no cure and will NEVER go away. My body is literally attacking itself, muscles, bones, joints, organs, and blood. There is nothing I can do to stop it but get the treatment. A LOT of which have not worked and now we are on to the infusions which seem to be helping somewhat but without sooner care I will no longer be able to get them or any of my medications and eventually will die while awaiting a hearing date from the disability office, meanwhile just trying to survive day to day and enjoy life with my family and my 8 year old son. This would be the worst thing you could do to people like me who have no choice but not to work. And it seems we are given the option to work to keep what maintains our life (medical) and run the risk of	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		literally working yourself to death to keep insurance and lose our chance of getting the disability we have paid into and still have to wait two years for and fight tooth and nail for, or keep fighting for our disability and not get treatment until our disability case is heard whenever that may be.	
7/16/2018	Andrea	Please do not put this into effect. We need to be providing appropriate services for Oklahoma families, not making it more difficult!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Marvin	Stop picking on the poor. I know they are an easy target, but still. These requirements will hurt Oklahoma's working poor. Stop please.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Robert	Please do not make the proposed changes to SoonerCare. They are ill-concieved and needlessly cruel. I am not on SoonerCare, but I know that these ideologically-driven rules changes will punish many people for being old, poor, or sick (and often, all three). That is patently wrong. These rules changes never should have been proposed in the first place. Reject them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Bhadri	I'm writing to share my support for SoonerCare—as a former teacher and parent of young children I've seen first hand the challenge of raising a healthy family and making a living. By forcing parents to work a required set of hours, many parents will not qualify for SoonerCare and you'll be forcing them into deeper poverty. It's important that Oklahoma take care of all it citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Rebecca	Please do not make it even harder to take care of our most fragile elderly population and our youngest population. People speak of protecting the unborn, but then forget about people after they are born. Cutting services, under funding education, and cutting health care isn't the way people should be treated! No cuts to Sooner Care! Oklahoma needs to take care of its people their whole life!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Sharon	We must care for the most vulnerable among us. We are directed by God to do so.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Nona	Leave our people alone! Help the fragile and go after BIG OIL if you want to save money!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/16/2018	Milley	The Soonercare Proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. Mary Fallin and the GOP legislators should not be trying to keep healthcare from individuals, they should be helping more people to get Soonercare. I vote in every election and I hope to live long enough to see a change. Thank You.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Julie	As a teacher, I see daily how this literal lifeline that is SoonerCare is necessary for the well-being of so many Oklahomans. I have no doubt that adding work requirements to access benefits will further add to our already staggering numbers of mental health sufferers without treatment. Daily, I watch parents on the edge trying to navigate the red tape of poverty while attempting to care for their families. This is already a monumental task. This new proposal will undoubtedly add another level of stress to low income households that will likely result in increased rates of suicide, child abuse, school truancy, incarceration, and hopelessness. Until Oklahoma wakes up and starts to administer and support it's core services properly, we are continuing to dig the grave of our state's future. We are going nowhere fast!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Geoffrey	I work as a private practice licensed professional counselor and the clear majority of my clients have Soonercare as a payment source. If you reduce access for healthcare to this population of people, you have eliminated needed mental health as well as medical care. I feel that it is important to provide these needed services to low income families. This is a good investment in the future for our state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Conna	No more cuts to services for the poor in Oklahoma! There has already been too much.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Heather	I am writing today to express my concern over the recent proposal to add work requirements for Oklahomans who qualify for SoonerCare. Too many Oklahomans already struggle to find affordable healthcare and I know you are aware of where the state ranks as far as quality and access. Please do not add another barrier. It is imperative that all we do all that we can to improve access to basic health services, not add further hurdles. Please consider changes that EXPAND healthcare coverage in Oklahoma!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Vicki	I am a practicing MSW and serve Oncology patients who depend on Medicaid to survive their cancer through transportation, Advantage Program and medical coverage. Many of my patients are elderly also. Please don't cut the program further. Our state is so low in all areas of caring for our citizens. Step up.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/16/2018	Sara	SoonerCare is essential to Oklahoma's functioning. It should be expanded rather than reduced.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Karen	Please withdraw your requirement for work for people to maintain their Medicaid. Most individuals who don't work cannot work at the present time due to illness. For those who can work they will lose it due to income. Shame on you Oklahoma for not taking care of your citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Savannah	The only way it makes sense to force people to have a job to receive programs like Medicaid and WIC is if the government is also going to provide free day cares and after-school programs. Instead, we are going to force people to have unwanted children because they have no access to contraception and/or abortions. And then we are going to force those parents to work at a NON VIABLE wage for 40+ hours a week in order to receive healthcare for said child.....but not provide child care. So the young mom can't work because there's no one to watch her baby. And then she can't get Medicaid and WIC. Or she works for minimum wage and her entire paycheck goes toward paying her neighbor to watch the kid for her in a non-regulated home daycare setting where the child isn't safe. But at least now the child has health insurance? Makes sense, right? 50% of all births in this state are now covered by SoonerCare. Work hour requirements for SoonerCare would be an irresponsible, discriminatory and dangerous public policy in the states of Oklahoma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Ida	really need soonerCARE for my grandchildren that I am raising. I can not afford insurance for them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Earlene	Please do not take away SoonerCare. There are so many people who depend on SoonerCare for health survival. SoonerCare needs more funding not less.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Diane	Please Value all the Oklahoma families that are on the Sooner Care Medicaid Program. It is so important that the families receive all the medical care that is needed for them to lead healthy lives without worrying causing undue stress. Use compassion with the thought what would you do for your own parents and families. We need and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		deserve a strong healthy Sooner Care Medicaid program . Please do not reduce Sooner Care medicaid programs	
7/16/2018	Leslie	The income limits are already so low for adults with children on SoonerCare, don't make it worse. If an adult is not working, there is a legitimate reason. Have some heart, have some compassion.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Philip	My 95 year old father is on soonercare. He is unable to work as he broke both ankles this year when his blood cancer caused a fall. Work required is unrealistic for so many. Please do the right thing for our citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Deborah	WE in OK need SoonerCare for our families. Withdraw your proposal for changes. And we need not spend money on forced work activities. We are sooo short on money. Not this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	JC	The proposed changes are a simple and wrong response to a complex problem. Please consult the research based evidence rather than public opinion regarding this issue. Thank you for your service.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Debbie	The elderly, the disabled and the poor are the people who depend on this care the most and those are the very people your change will hurt the most. Stop this nonsense.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Joyce	I am close to a recipient of Sooner Care which has already been cut off. She has needs for her children and herself. She works full time and continues to struggle financially.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Janice	Please reconsider! Protect our children and our elders.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	David and Jane	Please do not force this cruel rule on low income families who receive SoonerCare; this especially hurts the children and parents who are caught in a low wage job or stay at home because they cannot provide for proper childcare while they work. Children will be hurt because of this. We are requesting that the OK state health authority withdraw their proposal for work requirements to access healthcare via SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/16/2018	Lorne	For all of you Christian conservatives. Matthew 25:40 King James Version (KJV) And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. You should just imagine yourself or one of your loved one in this situation. Just please do the right thing.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Tammy	My son has soon care and he is disabled! He has autism and ADHD and just working 9 hrs a week at mcdonalds . without soonercare he would not be able to get his medication and work. He does not sleep at night without medication and would not be able focus at his job! Don't take away sooner care please! He also receives disability and ssi.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Paige	Please protect SoonerCare for low income families in Oklahoma. Everyone deserves access to healthcare regardless of ability to pay. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Rebecca	Please don't deprive folks of healthcare because they're poor.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Lisa	Health care is not a luxury commodity and we have to stop treating it as such. It's not a socialist scheme to chip away at the bank accounts of the wealthy. Health care is one of the foundations of a thriving society, and when you reserve it only for those deemed worthy according to the criteria laid out by the already-advantaged class, you are actively making things worse. Yes, it is expensive to deliver and administer, but the costs we're paying because of the inequities that already exist are higher. And politicians know that, if they're being honest with themselves and the people who pay their salaries. If they don't know that, they have no business as public representatives.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Julianna	I am writing to you regarding the proposed changes to Oklahoma SoonerCare Medicaid programs. I write to you not as a constituent who uses the program, but as a caring citizen that believes all people deserve access to high quality healthcare. I believe that access to healthcare is a human right. I do not believe in requiring work programs and minimums for people to access healthcare. As Americans, we should strive to ensure that all people have access to high quality health, vision, and dental care -- all the time, regardless of their work status.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Programs like the one outlined in the new proposal are reductive and harmful. They fail to recognize the complexities that shape people's lives, and wrongly assume that "working" or "not working" are representative of individual flaws or strengths -- when in fact individual circumstances are often shaped by larger societal gaps in opportunity -- and these opportunity gaps affect our poorest citizens the most. Healthcare should be available to all people, not just those who are able to navigate complex bureaucracy. I find it very ironic that in a state that embraces conservative dogma regarding government oversight and purports to be guided by a moral (Christian) compass, our leaders would advocate for punitive conditions and bureaucratic red tape that fails on both levels -- its is a moral failure to deny healthcare to anyone and by establishing yet more conditions and rules on SoonerCare users you create ever larger government entities. This proposal demonstrates that once again, Oklahoma is at the bottom in the nation for thinking compassionately about its citizens, and for making policy that seeks to positively shape the future. Instead we punish people through limiting access, and our policies ensure that the future our of communities will include more people with poorer health outcomes, higher incidences of chronic illness, lower educational attainment due to poor health, more fractured families, increased teen pregnancies, higher incarceration rates, and many more negative outcomes. You need to recognize and be very transparent with all Oklahomans about the details of proposed changes: The proposed changes will hurt working parents and their children. It will negatively impact people with disabilities and chronic illnesses, and thus, their families. It will negatively impact the elderly and those with intellectual disabilities. I urge you to change course. Your proposed plan is deeply flawed and should be immediately withdrawn.	
7/16/2018	Ellen	Please do not cut funding or add new work requirements to SoonerCare. Sooner are protects the most fragile in our population. Doing so indicates an uncaring legislature that does not address the needs of vulnerable people in our state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Amber	As a provider and a family member of people who have benefited from SoonerCare, I am writing to encourage you to think about this policy from a broader picture. Many people are unable to work but appear to be able bodied. Many are waiting for disability benefits to come through, are caring for mental health challenges, children, or other family members. I implore you to not punish people for being poor. This policy denies people much needed health care. Health care is a need not a want. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/16/2018	Patty	SoonerCare needs expansion, not additional reductions and restrictions. Oklahoma residents are experiencing a lower quality of life and higher death rates due to the lack of access to medical and dental care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Sharon	The work requirements interfere with access to critical medical needs. Obstacles impede flow of services and prescription drugs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Wendy	My God son is on Sooner Care because his mother has passed away. His grandparents are raising him He has to be on Sooner Care because his Grandfather's insurance will not cover him because he is a grandson not a son. We depend on this insurance. He would have no coverage or what he did have would be a private policy and would use a big portion of his SSI check used to support his needs. Please make health care better not worse. Also, pre-existing conditions need to be covered. If this changes myself would be hurt with my private insurance. Pre-existing conditions is why I need insurance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Loretta	Any time you attack and demenish the aid to the most vulnerable of citizens, it is wrong on many levels. You are playing God and you are not God. You will reap a reckoning that you will regret. I hope that you think long and hard before decision. Remember the Golden Rule. "Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you."	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Diane	Sooner Care is supposed to be helping our most vulnerable citizens and giving families with tough circumstances a hand up. It's disgraceful how Oklahoma has become a state that is first in everything bad and last in everything good. Helping people in need is a good thing. Yes, there is always a potential for fraud and abuse. I believe the data show this program has very little of that. Please help people that need it even if they can work. Some don't make enough money to pay for healthcare and they're honest hard working folks. You never know how it may help a family or child to rise out of poverty.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Connie	I'm feeling exhausted by current thinking in our state. Children need a present care-giver more than they need a absent (often single parent) to earn an inadequate minimum wage that does not begin to support "child-care, housing, food, education, transportation, and the basics" in any fashion. It takes time and attention to raise and grow children to become "independent ,well-adjusted adults". The goal is healthcare and well-being. the solution is to provide adequate health care, not to take away the care-givers in our community. Not every important job produces a paycheck. Care-givers are critical to our young,	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		our old and our disabled. Caregivers already have full-time jobs and need support, not to be additionally stressed by punitive policies.	
7/16/2018	Rebecca	Oklahoma Medicaid work requirements will harm both parents and children. Uninsured parents who aren't getting needed health care may not be able to adequately care for their children. The children of parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses who can't work should not be punished by these new requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Linda	Many Oklahomans, including farmers and ranchers, and laborers are already at risk of losing their livelihoods due to a reckless President who has started a trade war with our trading partners. Taking chances with healthcare for needy Oklahomans is not an option. They need our support. This is what Oklahomans do..we take care of each other. Don't abandon them now!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Sherry	I worked for the state for 32 years, 20 at DHS. I believe the Medicaid work requirement will hurt families. I know people on SoonerCare need the medical attention. I do not believe recipients of social services are freeloaders; those who can work do work. I also know DHS actively monitors and pursues fraud by recipients. I also think the HCA should push for Medicaid expansion. So if it's within the power of the authority to push back on these requirements I honestly wish you would. This state needs to be doing the right things for children and families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Teresa	Our state needs to continue protecting the uninsured, for their sake as well as the sake of those of us who have insurance. As a state, as a people, we are only as strong as the weakest amongst us.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Suella	I worked for OKDHS for several years. I witnessed NO abuse of the medical program, Sooner Care. In fact without this program many vulnerable adults, and children, would be in jeopardy. It is to the benefit of our citizens to keep this program in place. After all, we are our "brother's keeper"....	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Lyle	Please do not hurt sooner are, by eliminating or reducing funding. Let us keep taking care of Oklahoma's who have dire need for it or taking care of their elder parents or for themselves. Please please do the right thing and let us help those with a need. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Suzanne	Protect our fellow Oklahomans in need! Preserve Sooner Care!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Mary	I'm asking that you reconsider your current intent to make work a condition for health care coverage. I understand the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		philosophy that work empowers people. If we as a state believe that, we could be focusing on training, job search assistance, and promoting a living wage. I fear we are falling into the familiar trap of blaming poor and sick people for their suffering, rather than taking responsibility ourselves for doing what needs to be done to develop an economy that makes it possible for Oklahomans to eventually manage on their own.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Alison	I live in rural Oklahoma. I work in a school with a 100% free and reduced lunch population. Many of these student's families work swing shift hours, have long commutes to work, and the job opportunities are far and few between. Families juggle work and care for their children enough as it is. Increasing the work load for already hard working families is just plain cruel. Do not add unneeded stress to this fragile family dynamic. Low income families who depend on SoonerCare do not deserve this. I myself am a testament to the good this program has done. If not for SoonerCare, my husband and I have completed 7 college degrees between us. We didn't have to stress about if our children would be taken care of while we attended school and studied. Please do not add this burden to families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Jamie	In 2005, I divorced an abusive husband. In 2007, my son was hit by a car, leaving him with a traumatic brain injury. Over the years Sooner care stepped up and either helped, or completely covered his medical care. As a single mom, I could not have worked or gone to college if my son was not medicated. Now I work full time, have my Bachelors and am able to provide medical coverage for my son threw my employer. I am not the only mom who needed help. There will be more. I could not be in the position I am now, if I had not had help in the past.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Suzanne	I implore you to withdraw the proposal to cut SoonerCare coverage to parents who do not meet your proposed weekly work requirements. There are many factors at play that may affect a parent's ability to meet a work threshold: access to child care (which may be more expensive than the earned wages), chronic illness of either the parent or child, and the hours set at the discretion of the employer, just to name a few. The purpose of SoonerCare is to protect the most vulnerable in our society, low-income families, and these proposed changes exploits that vulnerability in an unethical manner. Than you for your time.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	John	Leave soonercare alone... stop trying to punish people for being poor...	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Anita	As a Tulsa native and school teacher, I would like to express my disapproval of adding any work requirements	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to Oklahoma's SoonerCare. Any proposal to do so is flawed and should be removed. Maslow's hierarchy of needs shows us the requirements for basic needs to be met, including safety and security. This is how I and many others view tax contributions to SoonerCare - as supporting the safety and security of the most vulnerable Oklahomans. Please do not add yet one more hoop to jump through for these individuals and families. It is much more important to me that most of my students, their families, and their communities be overall healthier with access to preventive and regular healthcare than it is to catch the few who take advantage of our system. Let them. The ones who spend their lives scheming will find something or someone to scheme. Do not punish the masses for those few idiots. Thank you for your time in reading my message.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Nicola	Oklahomans are watching voting and pay more attention than you think. I'll be voting in the next election just as I have every election since I was old enough. Stop balancing your budget on the backs of the poorest of the poor. Struggling Oklahoma families do not need to have to worry about how they'll pay for Healthcare on top of everything else. You should be helping people up helping them be stronger healthier and better productive citizens instead of kicking them when they're down!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Rick	I am opposed to the proposed Medicaid work requirements. Low income people need more assistance, not less.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Resa	Insurance should be easier to get, not more difficult. Once again the state of Oklahoma is punishing its most vulnerable citizens. No wonder we rank near the bottom of the 50 states in yet another statistic. Doesn't that matter to you? Wouldn't it be better if Oklahoma was thought of in a more positive light around the country?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Linda	I am so concerned about Sooner Care. It appears to me to be cruel to change it. Please care for the "least of these" as Jesus tells us to! I do not need Sooner Care for anyone in my immediate family, but I care for others. Let's work to Make American Empathetic Again!!! Please! Keep Sooner Care the way it is!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Stacy	Our daughter is on soonercare. I am on 3 different blood pressure meds to try to control my blood pressure. It will still spike, even on the 3 meds. I also have asthma and hypothyroidism. It is very hard to be able to find a job i could handle physically and mentally because i also deal with general anxiety. Therefore, my daughter would be	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		without insurance if she were to lose soonercare because of my unemployment.	
7/16/2018	Leslie	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Kristi	This is beyond cruel and must not be imposed on the poorest Americans by a state that has already mishandled so many of its constituency obligations.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Stephanie	I am a single mom struggling to make ends meet for my 3 kids and myself. We live off of SSI as my kids father passed away 4 years ago. I'm currently a college student and also have to be home when my son is home. He is autistic and needs me home. He does not do well in a daycare setting as he is "different" and many people don't know how to handle him. This would make it so that insurance would not be possible for me.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Beverly	SoonerCare is a critical lifeline for vulnerable Oklahomans. Without it many will die. Work requirements don't make sense. Most on SoonerCare are the working poor. Some lose their jobs due to health reasons. Some are caring for a	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		sick child. I am very against this proposal. It will harm Citizens and the administrative costs will be a huge waste.	your comments under advisement.
7/16/2018	Terry	My husband is a victim of the cuts to Sooner Care. He is disabled and had been on their insurance for 6 years. Two months ago, they sent us a letter saying he didn't need help anymore. I complained and they did a revaluation. This time they stated his finances made him ineligible (nothing had changed). Therefore, I can only conclude they are purging everyone they can. We now have had to get high priced insurance with high co-pays. This has caused other financial problems as we live on SSI. Now, we must use our local food bank to survive! Lesson: Someone always must pay for the errors of government.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/17/2018	Kelly	My family will not be able to survive without soonercare. I have 2 children with autism and have to stay home to take care of them while my husband works his hardest to keep us afloat. My children and many other people deserve to have help when times are tough! They deserve the care that they need to survive in this world! This proposal sounds rigged to keep people from being able to get help. Once again more hoops to jump through for the people who are fighting their hardest to survive!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/17/2018	Janet	I formerly worked in Department of Human Services - Social Services in many different areas and several Division. When I began employment with the State it was DISRS. In my 27 years with the State politicians were always trying to figure out a way to cut social services programs. These programs are a drop in the bucket when considering total State and National budgets. I could never understand why these proposals always took from those who had the least to give. This newest proposal is more of the same. These programs mean the difference to the elderly, infirm and children, between living, and merely existing while going hungry and without needed medical care and medicines. My disabled friend in OKC tries to live on \$750 and month. She will not live long, if the medical programs that assist her are cut and she cannot buy medicine for her chronic pain or afford to see a doctor as often as she needs to. Also, children in Oklahoma need medical care and to be able to eat nutritious food in order to become future, responsible, contributing adult citizens within their society. This proposal will negatively impact the low economic level children. This proposal will harm the elderly, disabled and children and their parents, it has deep flaws and I urge you to withdraw it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/17/2018	Mary L Hockett Thoma	Exemptions need clarification and direct mail publication to every Sooner Care recipient and their caregiver. Some are moving to other states because they don't understand exemptions. If beneficiaries are/were minors at the time of	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		the rule change how are they affected if their condition continues into the age of majority?	your comments under advisement.
7/18/2018	Alex	I'm sure this won't be approved for posting because it does not serve the agenda... But just so everyone knows. This is all about money. Of course, as always, they are going to defund programs for people that need them the most. Repealing tax cuts for the oil companies and the wealthy would be far too difficult. It is also in part punishment for the teacher's strike. For all of you who are applying for disability, are sick and cannot work but don't qualify under the new requirements, or have children that are sick that you must take care of... too bad. They don't care about you. Also, something that is apparently flying under the radar is that they are trying to stop medicaid payments for Medicare Part B. So if you are elderly or disabled... thank our glorious Oklahoma state government for that one too. I guess it's easier to harm people with nothing than lose contributions from wealthy investors. Take that under advisement OHCA.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/18/2018	Jeannie Oliver	I am glad to pay taxes to support Soonercare. Your rule changes would cause many people who need to be at home to take care of children and disabled or elderly to lose insurance or abandon their responsibility as caregivers. And by the way, many are also looking in on friends and neighbors, checking on their well being. This proposed rule change reflects our failure to recognize the importance of the contributions of work performed in the home that is not paid. That work is as important as money to the family and to the benefit of the community at large.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/18/2018	Michael Bronze	I am the Governor of the Oklahoma Chapter of the ACP. We are concerned that the conditions on eligibility on whether or not adults are working or engaged in the community will push vulnerable patients out of the program and create unnecessary administrative burdens for patients and physicians.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Anne-Marie	I vehemently disagree with this proposal. I have been a resident of Oklahoma my entire life. I've traveled to every corner of the state and seen firsthand the rampant poverty plaguing our citizens. I myself, am employed full time with benefits and still can not afford the healthcare I need. Health should not be a privilege of only the rich. When your main focus every day is survival, it can be difficult to accomplish things like submitting monthly paperwork and meeting deadlines. Those problems increase exponentially when you don't have consistent computer and internet access, common in most of our rural state. Additionally, if an applicant meets all of your arbitrary deadlines and requirements, chances increase that they will lose their Medicaid coverage altogether. As a taxpayer, I am willing to pay for the extremely small number of people who might be taking advantage of the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Medicaid system if it means that those who need it can still have access to healthcare.	
7/19/2018	Virginia	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Not sure. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Could cause loss of coverage to those .pay in neex. I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. . My grandson has had quality medical and dental care. We are on Medicare and would not be able to cover him.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Teresa	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. Full time plus employment. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Members would not be able to reliably report for a number of reasons. One reason is internet access is very limited in some rural areas. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It will drive more non insured patients into the ER's which will increase cost for everyone and increase the financial burden on rural hospitals to stay open. . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. The poorest working families will suffer due to this. Members would lose coverage. . Members get basic care and preventive care rather than inappropriately utilizing emergency departments. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can not easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Ford	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Families would lose Medicaid coverage which would result in more uninsured patients in our community, putting a greater burden on the local health care system.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. see above. I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		much to qualify for SoonerCare.. see above. Medicaid coverage helps low income families that otherwise do not have access to health insurance.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/19/2018	Laura	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activites" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. It could cause them to lose health care coverage . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Pamela	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activites" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Desperate mothers cannot always provide volunteer time. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. My daughter has an autistic child, she cannot meet these requirements and depends on sooner care coverage . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. My grand children will be left to fend on their own so their mother can work, one child is autistic and needs his mother . Medical for underage children and mental health care. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Carrie	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). I do not but the reason I have a child and partner on Soonercare is because my partner has several profound health issues that preclude him from working. He was a homemaker for much of our time together so he did not work outside the home; therefore, disability benefits are not available. When our children got older, his health failed and is unable to work. Have Soonercare coverage for him is CRITICAL because the illnesses he has require expensive prescriptions that we would go without if not for Soonercare because we are a one-income household. . I have three jobs, one full-time, one part-time, and one in the summer. I have kept this schedule for the vast majority of my working life. I also volunteer multiple hours a week in my community. . I do NOT support forcing parents on	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. We would be sunk. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. We would no longer have critically needed health care coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. It would negatively affect my family and many other families I know. . Having access to SoonerCare means my partner can get preventative care which can be scheduled into my working time rather than unforeseen emergency room visits which disrupt my ability to work; additionally, being exposed to the prohibitive cost of medical care in this country without health coverage would add to our debt load, further worsening our financial position, which is tenuous already. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/19/2018	Ora	Concerned about the health and well being of underserved Oklahomans. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Deprive needy of health care. An unnecessary non productive procedure will waste scarce funds.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Makes a desperate situation worse.. I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Donna	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. SoonerCare helps those at 50% poverty level and even if at minimum wage they still need help with medical insurance. This should be a right to citizenship! In fact everyone should have the same choices of plans with preexisting conditions allowed. No one state or federal employees or elected officials should have different choices of health insurance than the rest of the citizens. Those with less income need assistance and that is what this program is all about. This program should not be limiting those that qualify to have health assistance! We are a civilized county but we don't seem to act like it or take care of our citizens like other countries. Why is that? Why are prescription drugs so expensive here but not in	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		other countries? There needs to be incentives for better health practices and because like smokers they cost the health industry loads of money because of the habit.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/19/2018	Ken	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activites" or volunteer work in order to mantain health coverage.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. It seems to be a system that will throw folks in a no win situation. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Andrew	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activites" or volunteer work in order to mantain health coverage.. It will foster human dignity, personal responsibility, and self-worth.. I support this proposal. . I support this proposal. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Denise	Court court. Appointed Special Advocate . . Volunteer with court ordered families . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activites" or volunteer work in order to mantain health coverage.. Vulnerable families will be hurt by burdensome bureaucratic hurdles and varying work hours they have little control over. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Devastating for caregivers to old and young Oklahomans. Penalizes vulnerable persons. . I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. Loss of access to health care. Physicians and hospitals stressed by impact of new rule. . Access to needed healthcare and medications. Reduce ER visits and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		unnecessary hospital stays. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/19/2018	Margaret	My daughter was once on SoonerCare. . I am a retired school counselor.. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Legitimate SoonerCare patients would either not be able to work due to debilitating medical conditions or if able to work, receive too much reimbursement to qualify for SoonerCare. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. The number of people without medical insurance would rise and put financial burdens on community services and family members.. I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. The numbers of people without medical insurance would rise and burden the community.. My daughter received SoonerCare when my private health insurance company dropped her coverage. I would have needed to declare bankruptcy to cover her medical bills if it had not been for Medicaid. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Wanda	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes, TIA (mini-stroke). I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. Adds hardship on single parents w/children. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Creates more stress on single parents.. I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. Continues the working poor cycle. Not a viable avenue to consistent healthcare and to full time employment with benefits.. Eases the stress of single parent families.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Carol	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). None. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage.. This proposal will be a no win situation for some of the most vulnerable population. Putting these requirements in place is unconscionable. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		their coverage. See previous written answer. I do NOT support this proposal because it create a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.. See above written answer. My mother was unable to live on her own for 13 years. She received Medicaid for the last few years of her life. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/19/2018	Cooper	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Lisa	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. People who are able to work 20 hours can end up earning too much to qualify for SoonerCare and will likely be uninsured, which hurts them, their children and the whole community. Many also cannot afford childcare for 20 hours a week. Plus, who is going to pay for the "system" to track this? We are spending money on the wrong things. Again. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This population is burdened enough, and most would love to be working full time at a good job, but can't. It doesn't help anyone to kick them off SoonerCare. I have many people in my community, and many clients, who have been able to survive thanks to SoonerCare. Many are the victims of systemic inequities that have made it difficult and often impossible for them to maintain steady, quality employment. SoonerCare at least allows them to get basic healthcare and hopefully avoid the more serious medical issues that develop when you have no access to health care other than the emergency room. We all pay more in the long run without SoonerCare readily available. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Craig	The very purpose of SoonerCare is to help those families who struggle to provide for the necessities of life on their current incomes. The work requirements will push many families above the income level for eligibility without	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		paying them enough to buy insurance in the deeply flawed Oklahoma market.	your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Dayla	I don't understand the need for this change. What is the state trying to achieve by doing this? These changes can and will be detrimental to the health of many. Don't you care? What will happen to the CHIP program? What about parents who are employed at a small company that doesn't offer healthcare? You must not make this heartless change to our states healthcare system!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Chris	Too many families are too vulnerable already. We need to work away from being worst in the nation on enough issues interconnected with SoonerCare. I get the intent I just think we should do that when we have extra money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Mark	As you well know, insurance to cover our state lower income families is virtually impossible to find, much less to afford. The importance in Soonercare/medicaid would be simply understated in this correspondence. A person, ANY person living in the US without some form of medical network will be subject not only to poor access to healthcare but also long term financial disaster. Rolling back Medicaid services to any of our state residents is a terrible choice, both morally and financially. The direction of our current administration serves no purpose to our local neighbors other than to clearly demonstrate that the state of Oklahoma doesn't care about the welfare our our citizens. Implementing unrealistic guidelines will only result in further suffering, isolation, and loss in the quality of life for those needing Medicaid services. I urge you to retain the pre 2016 levels of services for our state residents.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Jeannine	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Poor people would have to work enough to disqualify for Medicaid, or lose it. If they work for it, making terrible pay, that would still be enough money for them to be cut from the program. The program already is unavailable to all but the desperately poor. And this would leave them desperately poor still. This idea is a ploy, in my view, simply to cut the poor and their children off from any help, the better to free money for subsidizing or giving tax breaks to the well off. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would lead to misery for children and their parents, and for others who care about them. Diseases could also spread without being	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		caught by medical personnel, affecting all of the community and beyond. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would be devastating. . My community and my own family benefit, as contagious illnesses are caught and treated, and not being spread by the helpless sick. We benefit by living in a community that does not have misery in it, and by living Christian lives as God has told us to do. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/19/2018	Anonymous	Reading these comments I have seen both sides of people who agree or disagree to the changes being made to this policy. I personally believe that income should be enough to qualify someone for care, and having work requirements will significantly effect poor income families negatively rather than encourage people to work. There are too many factors that play into people's work situations to be discerned by legislature.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Nancy Wance	This is a despicable "solution" to a problem caused by government mismanagement and abdication of responsibility to all the members of the society being governed. Many working people depend on SoonerCare for critical therapy and other treatment for babies born with birth defects. The disabled and elderly will suffer under this irresponsible and cruel policy. You are betraying the sacred trust that all government agencies bear. Do not add yet more to the burdens imposed on the less fortunate.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/19/2018	Anonymous	I am whole heartedly against this proposed requirement. We need to expand Medicaid, not restrict it further. Have you had to tell someone who was dying of cancer that their meagre SSA check, which is not enough to pay their mortgage/utilities, puts them over the income limit for Medicaid? Watched them cry because they are literally dying and worried about their loved ones, becoming homeless, feeding their children...and it will be 2 years before they're eligible for Medicare? Because I have. I had to cry in the supply closet and take the rest of the day off. It's not right. This is not who we are.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/21/2018	Anonymous	Forced labor. No, we're not turning into Soviet Russia at ALL....	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Jenny	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Working longer hours may result in participants losing their coverage. Most of these people work anyway. We have some of the	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		worst statistics in terms of health in this state. Taking away desperately needed coverage for the poor is a BAD idea for children and families in this state.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Very negatively. This would lead to more uninsured people in the state of OK.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This would affect so many families adversely and lead to worse health outcomes for our state.. I have many young students who have received speech and other health services from SoonerCare.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Anson	As someone whose family used sooner care and worked few hours while I was going to school, I have no problem now contributing to the healthcare of my fellow Oklahomans. We should always take care of "the least of these."	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Keith	Please do not pursue work requirements for citizens of our state who rely on Sooner Care or other forms of assistance. Our system is badly out of whack right now and people who rely on these services to survive are nearing their breaking point...if they are not already beyond it. We, as Oklahomans, should do better. Let us focus on compassion, not politics.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Renee	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Badly . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Badly . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Badly . Well child checks, and vaccines . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Persia	This plan will hurt Oklahoman's AND cost the state MORE. It MUST be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Cynthia	Retired Registered Nurse. . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. There are far too many possible situations that would exempt families needing coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Oklahoma is a state that does far too little to support those less fortunate as it is, taking away health care to those most in need is heartless and cruel.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Reba	I don't have a problem with the work requirement. I have worked all my life sometimes multiple jobs. I worked thru a difficult pregnancy. I have and am taking care of elderly parents. People need to get a job and figure it out.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Sheri	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes, my son has Prader-Willi Syndrome and needs assistance 24/7.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would not personally affect me, but I have several friends who have special needs children/adults who are unable to work because of needing to take care of their child. Special needs individuals should not be penalized by not receiving SoonerCare insurance and medicine just because a parent is unable to work, but has to be in the home.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Many would lose their insurance coverage and not be able to get required meds which are a necessity. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . SoonerCare has enabled my son to receive the necessary meds he needs in order to live a peaceful and content life, while also being as healthy as possible.. We use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Rosalinda	I moved to Oklahoma when I was seven months pregnant. Almost as soon as I arrived I got a call from my dermatologist that I had stage two melanoma. Do to this unexpected health issue I could not afford to take care of the melanoma and deliver the baby. This is where sooner care was huge and a life saver for my family sooner care was there for us!!!! Please protect sooner care for families who may have unexpected life circumstances and poverty.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
07/24/2018	Jackie	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Mary	When these regulations are enforced, will the people who don't report working stop having health needs? Will the ones without health care stop working at the jobs they were supposed to report? Where will all the unemployed people without health care end up? Punishment does not result in the behavior we want. Punishment only benefits the one in authority to feel in control. Oklahoma needs to pass regulations that empower people, not oppress people. Oklahomans are the hardest working people in the USA. Our poorest people are the hardest working people. We do not have a problem in Oklahoma being lazy. We have a wage problem. Oklahomans who work 2 and 3 jobs do not make enough money. And they likely do not have the time or resources to meet the reporting requirements in these regulations. I will be voting for and helping elect Oklahoma leaders who will repeal these rules, if you enact them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Anonymous	I'm very discouraged at the legislature's tendency to keep cutting things that help people while continuing to give legislative help for those that don't need it. This proposal does nothing but continue to crush vulnerable people. This is an inhumane policy to ultimately benefit the rich people and politicians receiving their dark money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Carmen	I am writing to submit a comment against implementing these proposed work requirements for SoonerCare. My primary reason for opposing work requirements for Medicaid is that Oklahoma needs a strong safety net for our most vulnerable people, and implementing these rules diminishes, not strengthens, our safety net. Another reason I oppose implementation of Medicaid work requirements is that people who are working but are not making enough income not to live in poverty will be punished by losing their coverage because they have made too much income to qualify for SoonerCare anymore. This is because people working lower-wage jobs are more likely to have irregular working hours or gaps in their	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		employment. We would be punishing them for doing the very thing we want them to do. Additionally, implementing work requirements for SoonerCare would do little to reduce Oklahoma's already-low Medicaid fraud rate, as the vast majority of people on SoonerCare are either working or have some disability that keeps them from being able to work, according to the Social Security Administration. Instead of implementing these baseless work requirements, I propose that Oklahoma accept Medicaid expansion dollars in order to strengthen our state's safety net and ensure a bright future for our most vulnerable people. Implementing these work requirements is a bad business decision and further jeopardizes the health and well-being of every Oklahoman, and weakens the safety net we have rightfully put in place. I ask that the OHCA withdraw these rules from consideration for implementation.	
07/24/2018	Brittany	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Families will go without coverage. The ones that need it the most. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Many people will go without coverage. School will suffer increase absences from sick kids. More behavioral issues in class rooms without behavioral meds. Increase in crime. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Families will go without coverage. The ones that need it the most. This state is continuing to make changes to hurt working families. . I was on sooner care as a child. My mom worked several jobs throughout my childhood to provide for my brother and I. She received no other form of government assistance other than Sooner care for my brother and I because she made to much. During a large portion of my childhood she worked in the photo department at Walmart. That was in the 90s. In 2018 i wouldn't be able to afford to live on my own while working for Walmart. . We use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Deborah	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. People will lose coverage. The purpose of Medicaid is to provide insurance	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to low-income people, not to deny it. The income standards are so low that practically any job will make the person ineligible, even though there is no health insurance provided by the employer and, with pay at or slightly above minimum wage, no way they can afford to pay premiums out of pocket.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. When people lose coverage, we all pay for emergency room visits, which are more expensive than funding Medicaid. People who cannot work because they are caring for others puts both the caregiver and those needing care at risk under this proposal. This is inhumane in an advanced, rich country. We provide health care to violent criminals in the prison system. Why would we deny it to anyone else? This whole thing is just a way of punishing and scapegoating the poor and forcing them to take any job, no matter how bad the pay and the lack of benefits, so employers can profit even more. This drives wages down for all of us, which again, benefits only the already wealthy employers. It's exploitation.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. The administrative costs involved in monitoring people's compliance with these requirements is more expensive than people realize. OHCA will have to develop a computer tracking system. They will have to devote staff to these activities, when state agencies are too underfunded to hire the needed number of employees as it is. All this to micromanage the lives of people who just want to go to the doctor when they are sick. Who abuses health care with the exception of a few hypochondriacs? It doesn't make any sense to set up an administrative apparatus just to make a few people's lives difficult for political grandstanding. We didn't expand Medicaid like we should have so kicking the few adults off the roles that qualify for coverage in Oklahoma is a ridiculous idea given the costs involved. It will probably cost more money than it will save. . Everyone benefits when people have insurance coverage. That is the whole reason to have Medicaid. Oklahoma already has a large percentage of the population with no medical coverage. Why make that situation worse? This is just cruelty. Of course, what we really need is national single-payer. Then all this harassment of people who simply want some coverage will not take place. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Becky	I am a retired teacher who worked with Deaf families using SoonerCare.. No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Many families in need of food, medical, and educational services would lose these necessary life items. More families would struggle even greater and many individuals would die without enough services. We have not planned and do not have personnel and services to fly this program of restriction. Let's not waste money on directly harmful programs.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Stephanie B	I have clients who have significant mental health needs- but no obvious physical limitations. SoonerCare pays for their therapies, hospitalizations, independent living needs, and case management. They have multiple doctor appointments, therapy visits, and court hearings per month. Even without the MH issues that cause this- they HAVE fulltime jobs taking care of their basic health needs. 14 years on the job later, I'm STILL paying for my college degree because of loans I took to be able to stay home with my kids as I completed said degree. During those 2 years, we had SoonerCare. Our rules and regulations are draconian and humiliating enough already. Besides the fact- it will COST MONEY to implement these changes. I prefer my taxes go towards helping people-not regulating them literally to death.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Judith	. . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I think it would be horrible, forcing people off SoonerCare and into the arms of hospital emergency rooms at a time when many of our small hospitals are on the verge of closing due to financial problems.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I see that children of poorer parents may suffer health issues as a result.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This is an immoral and dreadful situation created only by the shortsighted foolishness of our state legislature. I implore you not to lower the already rock bottom standards of care by doing this.. no one, but I have compassion for others and realize a community needs to	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		support all for it to prosper.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Julie	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. First, the income standard for adults who categorically relate to AFDC, due to having a child in the home is extremely low. Therefore many parents do not receive Medicaid for themselves but for only their children. So, there is usually a significant reason they are not employed. Also, if this occurs the majority of parents would need to seek day care through DHS. And, that is an entirely lengthy conversation on it's own. And many parents do not have reliable transportation. Therefore, we are punishing the poor to make political points, for no valid reason.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . They are able to receive medical care when the need arises. Also, addressing medical needs can significantly lower the need to go through the ER. Also, if they are on Medicaid, and receive medical care then it can reduce the dominio effect, of being ill could result in...	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Gregg	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). I have depression.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. There are folks in my community that would be hard pressed to work 20 hours a week.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Again, this would be a hardship on many folk.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. As you stated, it is a trap for many folks who struggle to organize themselves with the added chaos of their living situation.. My grandson would never have received the counseling he desperately needed.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Carol	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would result in many people losing SoonerCare. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would increase the number of people without any health coverage and would increase costs to hospital Emergency Rooms.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would be harmful to the most vulnerable members of our community.. I have never used or needed SoonerCare but I support it for those who do.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Luther	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This requirement would increase the likelihood that needy families will be denied help they need because they will not be able to access, understand or successfully complete the system's requirements for reporting work hours. This state is not know for its user-friendly systems.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This requirement would require parents who are caring for family members, or who have inconsistent work schedules, to lose their coverage.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. The proposal would cause needy parents to lose their only access to health coverage by forcing them to earn an amount that would disqualify them, and yet will in no way support them. . Members of my community and family have been able to afford life-sustaining medications and care due to SoonerCare.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Cassidy	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Workforce participation has certainly been shown to increase individual health; however, the opposite is also true. While this proposal aims to promote self-reliance, it does nothing to address the underlying circumstances that make it difficult for Oklahomans to find and retain gainful employment. Often, the health needs of individuals or their families preclude them from working. In those cases, requiring individuals to work before obtaining health care access can be counter productive. Lack of reliable transportation, job opportunities, and consistent scheduling also limit individuals' ability to work. Even in instances in which	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		members do work, demonstrating their compliance can be cumbersome if they lack reliable internet access or familiarity with the process required of them. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. SoonerCare members supporting one dependent child who consistently work 20 hours per week at minimum wage can be expected to make too much income to qualify under current income eligibility guidelines. A mother making \$7,540 per year (\$7.25 x 20 hrs x 52 weeks) would be considered too wealthy to obtain coverage given the current maximum income limit for an adult with a dependent child in a household of two (\$7,464). It is extremely unlikely in that instance that the individual's workplace would provide coverage at that wage, and without access to the Marketplace (too little income to qualify) or Insure Oklahoma (too many employees at the workplace to qualify), the individual would lose access to health care coverage. Loss of access could prohibit future workforce participation if it results in the exacerbation of health care issues. It could also result in reliance on emergency rooms, driving up providers' uncompensated care costs. . Given Oklahoma's already limited coverage provision, and given the potential fate of thousands of low-income Oklahomans, this proposal should be strongly reconsidered. Without providing additional accommodations or means for individuals to transition into a workplace or onto other coverage, this waiver would result in loss of coverage for already disadvantaged Oklahomans and likely, a decline in their health care outcomes and overall quality of life.. We do not use SNAP in our household.	
07/24/2018	Dione	Some people just aren't able to work full time I try but I also have 3 kids and a disabled husband on insulin between working taking care of my family and helping my 76 year old grandmother time and money is spare.We barely make it month to month so then for I don't have any extra income for my husband's insulin or my kids inhaler. Some people don't even have the opportunity to work hours I do so please leave it alone people that work any hours are doing the best they can don't punish people that really need it	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Naila	I am a health care provider. . . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Joe	Grandson and family are on SoonerCare. Yes. A-fib.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activites" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Heighten citizens' sense of personal and familial responsibility.. I support this proposal. Heighten citizens' sense of personal and familial responsibility.. I support this proposal. Heighten citizens' sense of personal and familial responsibility.. Decreased the amount of support I have to give them. The system, like all socialist systems, is screwed up. The removal of basic support(which I support) needs to be graduated as the individual gains minimal employment. As it is, the system takes away more in benefits than minimal employment provides in income. Designed to keep people from working their way up.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home. You are, per your norm, overstating the case for not providing for oneself. You like and promote the generational dependency that we have developed. Have you considered having a look at no less a confirmed socialist than Fidel Castro. He recently announced it don't work. He is right. . If you can keep repeating the same question, I can keep repeating the same answer: You are, per your norm, overstating the case for not providing for oneself. You like and promote the generational dependency that we have developed. Have you considered having a look at no less a confirmed socialist than Fidel Castro. He recently announced it don't work. He is right. . It would destroy the welfare state. I do not mind in the least helping people - as long as they are interested in helping themselves - but supporting it as a lifestyle is doing the recipients a disservice.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Nathan	Don't mess with the kids' health care!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Anita	There are people who are to ill in family's to work, what are they supposed to do, live and the street and die? Most of these people have worked hard most of their lives. Please make this America again.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
07/24/2018	Isaac	The last thing aging Americans should need to worry about is health care and their parents care. This raping of the healthcare system needs to stop. Real people are being hurt.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Maeva	Please protect many by protecting Soonercare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	D. Michelle	I am on SoonerCare (Medicaid). Cancer and chemo. damage are my most serious preexisting conditions.. I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. As a former mall business operator, I found all the employment seeking interruptions to my business annoying. No one can provide that "dream job" of steady 20 hr.s/week. Working parents are better employed on a piece by piece basis. It's just not plausible that employers can custom make a job to fit Oka mandates to suit employees real and full time job of parenting. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . . Sick kids get dumped and bumped from childcare and schools. Where they go when they are sick is any ones guess.. I raised my children with Sooner Care. 3/4 of my children graduated OSU. . We use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Fran	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Health would deteriorate for many people I know and have served. Without health care they would suffer and possibly die. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. The working poor parents I know would have great difficulty reporting their minimum wage jobs that change frequently due to employer practices, limited transportation, and child care needs.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This would cause a lose-lose situation for these families. Already disempowered people would be	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		further abandoned by our state.. I see many children and disabled adults who have gotten basic health care be able to survive their impoverished circumstances better. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Kimber	We need to provide health care for our people who cannot Afford it on their own.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Lisa	Do not decrease Sooner Care funding. So many families need it in order to get their medical needs met. I work with those that are less fortunate and they are doing everything they can to get ahead. Please do not make life even tougher for them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Chadwick	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Those that I know personally volunteer more than required.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. No effect for the ones I know.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. No effect for the ones I know.. The ones I know would probably have to do without proper medical care and rely of ER care.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Sarah	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It will negatively affect those in my community whose children rely on SoonerCare to get their basic medical needs met. This requirement is a really good example of "able-ism" where those who came up with it did not think about those who are "differently abled" and cannot follow through with 20 hours a week of work/volunteering. Having your medical needs met is a human right, not a privilege. I also argue that having to have the appropriate staff and infrastructure to manage people to submit their hours will cost more than the savings of running off those who are unable to keep up with such a restrictive requirement. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Again, this is a broad	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		brushstroke way to mitigate a PERCEIVED problem. Access to affordable health care is a human right, not a privilege. The proposal will penalize thousands of caregivers for really no reason and will definitely cause many to avoid getting basic health needs met.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This creates a system that will trap people in a state of poverty. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
07/24/2018	Tracey	This is going to hurt so many families please please I beg of you to withdraw we're already at poverty level this is going to probably make us homeless so I'm begging you please please please withdraw	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Anonymous	I'm very discouraged at the legislature's tendency to keep cutting things that help people while continuing to give legislative help for those that don't need it. This proposal does nothing but continue to crush vulnerable people. This is an inhumane policy to ultimately benefit the rich people and politicians receiving their dark money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Jane	Please do not take health care away from our most vulnerable. This proposal does not work fairly. It hurts parents, children, and the elderly.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Marilyn	The new Sooner care rule concerns me greatly. Elderly recipients are usually disabled or have health problems prohibiting them working without great personal discomfort. You may be lucky and have a job that took absolutely no toll on your body, but, many have worked jobs that have worn down their bodies or disease processes that prohibit working. Not everyone can be a teacher with early retirement benefits. Most companies have taken those pensions away in favor of shareholders profits. I'm truly disgusted with this proposals.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Denise	I like that adults who are able will be required to work. I am part of a low income household with no minor children. A member of my household has myriad medical issues but cannot afford coverage and does not qualify for sooner are because there are no minor aged children. That is ridiculous. Low income people should not be able to qualify just because they have minor aged children. That is discriminatory against those with no children or those with adult children. If we, as a state, continue to give free coverage to able bodied adults just because they have children, we'll go broke, and we'll continue to incentivize having children that the family can't afford, and not	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		working because working causes lost benefits. Please find a way to encourage and incentivize personal responsibility.	
07/24/2018	Cynthia	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . retired. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Parent having an severely disabled child may not be able to work or volunteer. Childcare is also a concern since it isn't being covered as it once was.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Children would NOT get needed health care. As a retired educator, I am concerned that children cannot learn when they are ill or have severe dental issues, etc.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Just barely earning enough to not qualify for SoonerCare does not provide necessary health/dental care for children.. A nephew with brain tumor has received lifesaving health care. Unfortunately, Medicaid has refused to provide some needed supplies while approving others. It seems illogical.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Emily	For once, care for those who are unable to provide care for themselves - if you are truly pro-life, then caring for living, breathing children should be your top priority. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Martha	I urge you to reject the Medicaid work requirement proposal. Instead of encouraging work, this would instead hurt our state and its residents. Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them. Please reject this proposal.	
07/24/2018	Andrea	Please eliminate the new work requirements on Medicaid recipients. Many of them are disabled, already working, or caring for others. Additional requirements will make it impossible for them to keep their benefits and destabilize their ability to get affordable medical care. Many of these recipients are humiliated to ask for help and only do so as a desperate last resort to survive.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Joanna	Please change sooner care to enclude older people. I'm 55, I haven't seen a doctor since 2008. I'm too young for social security and too old for sooner care. I and others like me fall thru the cracks! I hurt every day and have to suffer because I can't get medical care. I don't if I can live another 10 yrs with my pain until I can see a doctor! Somedays I don't want to live. Please consider adding older people!! Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Amanda	I do not understand how anyone can do this and think it's ok. I'm one that no longer qualifies for soonercare, because I got married. I had soonercare for around 5 years before I was cut off because I of marriage all while going off of my now husband's income. We now cannot afford health covert for myself asy husband is the provider making \$10.23 an HR. I do not work due to the fact that I stay home to take care of our children since my check would barely cover daycare if I did. My children, thank the good Lord above, still receive soonercare and if it wasn't for soonercare my children would be so unhealthy. My oldest wouldn't be going to school since we couldn't afford vaccinations and my youngest would be dead because we could not afford his emergency surgery he had in February. The fact that this is even a possibility of ofakng these changes is appalling. Soany would be without Insurance because let's face it, no one can pay for insurance these days on the low wages in O klahoma and 'make it' even pay check to paycheck or even 'paycheck to a week before next paycheck' like we do. Soany would be I'll or even die bc they didn't have soonercare. Soany are not able to work because of health reasons. If I was working, I wpuldnt have been able to complete my son's 6 weeks of home care after his surgery which he has a PICC line (a longer-term IV) in which I had to give his medicine everyday. If I worked, I couldn't take my oldests	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to Pre-K or now kindergarten and he would have to ride one of those dreadful buses that don't have seatbelts except for the driver who doesn't give a crap about the kids they're hauling. Yes, I know what the bus is like... Not safe at all. So, to make these changes would be death to Oklahomans... Yes death. Either by illness or starvation because people would have to choose... Food or insurance, insurance or medication, those vaccinations our children need for their health and education or food... Do not sentence your fellow Oklahomans to death..	
07/24/2018	Luicina	The lack of an appropriate and beneficial special education plus the lack of a future in this state for those with mental difficulties is appalling. Mental health care in this state is practically nonexistent. Which is why we are leaving this state that has been my home for the past twenty six years. There is no future for my children in this state. The only future here in this state for my son who has behavioral problems but is high functioning, is a prison cell. Because that's the only system in this state in place to deal with mental health issues as our children pass into adulthood. Any decision that you make to further limit healthcare access to families will only serve to harm those who need it most. I implore you to reconsider for those poor souls who continue to live here.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Sundra	I urge you to please not adopt work requirements for SoonerCare recipients. While I have not personally needed to apply for SoonerCare, I do know other moms who have needed to utilize this important service. I know a number of people who utilize SoonerCare who are unable to work or volunteer due to health issues - poverty is a terrible challenge in terms of wellness. We Oklahomans care about our neighbors, and we need this health care coverage for low-income families. To me, access to basic healthcare is something everyone in our state should have. Requiring work or volunteer hours on people who are struggling to make ends meet and to fill basic needs is not the answer. That is, unless the goal is to remove marginalized families from the healthcare system - and I don't want to be in a state that sees that as a good thing. Please do not adopt work or volunteer requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Joyce	I personally know and care about a number of good hardworking people here in Tulsa. They need the assistance of SoonerCare from time to time. Please continue SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Catharine	Although I currently live in Ireland, I am a US citizen and an Oklahoman and a voter. Do not pass ANY legislation that will diminish SoonerCare. It has literally been a lifesaver for Oklahoma children. We are a poor state and many citizens rely on this program. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Gayla	Please withdraw the Oklahoma Medicaid work requirement proposal. Medicaid is intended to hel our neediest citizens and Soonercare shouldn't impose a flawed work requirement on those who receive it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Alesia	I have only a few things to say as a productive citizen of Oklahoma. Why is the aim of Oklahoma leadership to harm the most vulnerable groups of citizens in Oklahoma? The strongest message our leadership can send is that they care for even the least of Oklahomans. The most devastating message that can be sent by leadership is that they don't mind Oklahoma being destroyed from the bottom up. Everything is cyclical, however, it seems Oklahoma leaders forget that. Every decision made will impact everyone. If you make a negative decision impacting the most vulnerable it will circle around to greatly impact those who think they are untouchable. The thing about economics is not one group of people goes unimpacted by any decision made. Taking hope from the vulnerable citizens does not make Oklahoma great! Having compassion for every Oklahoman does! Nonetheless, the Oklahoma Healthcare Authority just told the world they do not care. Our country is in its most volatile state ever. It is in times like this where we grow stronger or weaker. Please make a decision that will prosper all Oklahomans! Protect Soonercare families! They need you!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Gail	Let's get compassion and empathy back to our state. Legislators are supposed to work for the betterment of the people of Oklahoma. This proposal is in direct opposition. Figure out how to raise the revenue to do this without the regressive burden of sales tax on those least able to afford it. Get rid of the tax loopholes that have been to corporations that never needed the tax reductions to begin with. Corporate Welfare is rampant in this state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Robin	We need to ensure parents are healthy and able to take care of their children. The elderly cannot live with any less resources than they are getting now. Please ensure the health of low income parents and the elderly and disabled and that health care is available to them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Jenny	I live in a small town with almost no child care. He goes to school during the school year and then summer he is off. I have no help for childcare, so working is almost impossible. I'm going back to school this fall to change careers. Teaching so I am if when my son is off. Before I	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		had my son I was in retail management, but even in that line of work, working hours are outside of daycare hours. Unless you are a 9-5 professional or family to help, it's difficult to make it when your children are young. Believe me, I didn't plan on being a single parent. I have 1 child and had him at 32. I understand there are those that use the system as a way of life, but there are those of us that are not. We live in a world where we punish those in true need because of the habitual abusers of the system.	your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Greg	Please reconsider the work requirement for Sooner Care recipients. Most can't work because of the illness that caused them to need help.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Jan	Please leave Medicaid alone. Let people get the help they need. Please!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/24/2018	Rick	The proposed new work requirement for Sooner Care recipients is a bad idea that would cost more money to administer than benefit money it would save. This rule if implemented would result in many hearings, most of which would be won by recipients.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
07/25/2018	Kimberly	Please leave the sooner care program alone? This is crazy. I worked until I could no longer work. I'm battling already for my disability. If you take this I won't get any health care. I could die without my meds.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Sacra	After attending the Oklahoma Health Authority Advisory Board Meeting last week I became more convinced the sooner care work/volunteer proposal is a bad idea. The staff presenting from the Authority are very competent and conscious but they have been tasked to create a plan that is based on ill conceived legislation and there's just no good way to put lipstick on a pig and come out looking pretty!!!! For approximately 6,000 (mostly single Moms) this might impact I believe it will only put them and their children in harms way. Not only is this morally wrong but it's going to cost the state more money than we'll save by all the man hours of development and implementing of this plan that will be required to implement. Just at the meeting I could tell many hours have already been spent by Authority staff already in addition to the time spent by committee members sitting around the table (about 20) mostly successful and hopefully well paid committee members who lost more than 2 hours of their work day to	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		get to and attend this meeting, Care to calculate those costs????	
7/25/2018	Barbara	Concerned citizen. . . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Taking away from the most vulnerable. . That is just no true. Our state has minimum wage jobs. . Punishing the most vulnerable. . Having the peace of mind that people will be able to have Help. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home. I do not support anyone losing their health coverage. It is difficult to survive in this poor state. Many obstacles in getting and maintaining a job. Most are minimum wage. Most have no transportation. Having to take public transportation with children is a nightmare. Anyone that has a brain knows it is a bad idea. . People need healthcare. . This is very unlikely. Oklahoma has minimum wage jobs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	John	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes, cardiomyopathy . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would deny services to deserving people. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would deny services to deserving people. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This is incredibly unfair. While they may make enough money to make them ineligible for SoonerCare, they probably will not make enough to pay for decent insurance. . In 2010, I was laid off of work and had a difficult time obtaining another job in my field. My wife and I had two young children. SoonerCare enabled my children to have health care at a critical time in their lives (and one in which they got sick a lot). It was the one and only time we were unable to support ourselves effectively. We did end up having to sell our cars and house, but at least my children were able to get the care they needed. Buying private insurance was simply not possible with the income we were bringing in. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Lupina	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Members of the community I serve would be pulled further away from their children to work at a second or third low paying job. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . Getting the medical care they need and time to spend with family and children.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Lily	Please consider the unintended consequences that will occur as a result of the work requirements proposal. This proposal does not factor in unique circumstances of countless Oklahoma families struggling to make ends meet and remain insured for healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Larry	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. Retired. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Many individuals cannot work at all, such as those with persistent psychiatric disabilities. Also, the cost of tracking and administering these requirements will be astronomical and unbelievably cumbersome. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. For individuals working part time or multiple jobs with fluctuating hours and shifts, the scheduling of other work or volunteer work would be a nightmare and burdensome beyond belief.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Assuming the result of the work requirement results in the parent "earning too much" and therefore becoming ineligible for SoonerCare, they would most likely be unable to afford health care of any kind. Where is the reasonableness, logic or morality of such a result?. I worked in community mental health for decades and saw numerous individuals and parents/family members utilize and benefit from SoonerCare. It was a lifeline for many, many persons. The work requirement is the old throw back belief that people on "welfare" or lazy and unwilling to work. That it what is driving this policy and it should be recognized as such. It is simply a way to remove people from an excellent program that provides them health care.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/25/2018	Cathy	Do not penalize low income families. Children need medical, adults need medical. It would be a injustice to take this away from families...Mary Fallen you have done enough damage don't let this be another BAD thing you will be remembered for	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Lena	Everyone deserves Healthcare and shouldn't have to worry about weighing the cost of healthcare vs. Meds, food, electricity, etc. There are more people who live below poverty than are in the capital office. Work for the people you represent and put them in your eyesight, instead of big oil and big pharma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Katy	Medicare is important to Oklahomans don't take it away	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Shauna	Please stop this proposal. The majority of individuals who are on Medicaid cannot work or they would. We are wasting valuable tax dollars and time try to push through something that has no evidence of solving any problems. This is just a program being created to add more paperwork and reduce the ability for individuals to sign up for SoonerCare for their children. We should be doing more to fund core services in this state and expanding programs. Not reducing them. Bring in additional forms of revenue, such as medical marijuana and cut the tax breaks to the wealthiest companies and individuals in this state. We must fund core services and enhance and improve them, rather than trying to kick people off them to save money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Sue	There is no logical reason to start requiring work requirements for these poor people who already have a hard enough life! Plus, the work requirements will make it to where many will become ineligible for the benefits because they work too many hours at that point! Simply put, take the Medicaid expansion and stop shafting the poor!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Margo	I am a health care provider. . I am a physician who accepts SoonerCare.. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This requirement will lead to adults and children losing their health coverage. This will hurt patients, hospitals, emergency rooms and clinics across Oklahoma.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This proposal will hurt many residents of Garfield County.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Many parents, children and caregivers will be harmed by this proposal.. Many children and adults in my community benefit from SoonerCare.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/25/2018	Erin	I am writing in strong opposition to the proposal. Kicking low-income Oklahomans who do not meet an arbitrary number of working hours off of their healthcare accomplishes nothing besides further complicating the lives of those too sick to work. If someone has a debilitating illness, SoonerCare is the only way they will get the care they need to someday work again; denying them healthcare now only ensures that they will never rejoin the workforce. Many of these people also have children who will also lose SoonerCare coverage; this creates a cycle of poverty and dooms entire families to a life with no health coverage and no way to improve their situation. Poor Oklahomans who are too sick to work have enough to worry about already; give them a chance to get healthy by withdrawing the proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	MJ	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Many members of our community are disabled and are not able to work or volunteer. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. People in my community would lose access to medical care. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. People in my community would lose access to medical care. . Members of my community who would have no medical care without SoonerCare are able to see doctors or healthcare professionals because of SoonerCare. . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Kathy	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Type 2 Diabetes. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This proposal could trap families in a Catch-22. Parents in Oklahoma must be earning less than half the poverty level to qualify for SoonerCare. If they work more hours to meet this new mandate, they could lose their SoonerCare - and not have any other options. Also, as I understand it, with this proposal, working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are crucial concerns, especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who face dire threats to their health if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Additionally, Many Oklahoma parents will lose health coverage as a result if this proposal is approved. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal doesn't appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage. Oklahomans deserve to know how this proposal will impact them.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . . We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	
7/25/2018	Jonathan	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This would strip vital healthcare from the most vulnerable members of my community.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This would remove coverage from members of my community who are performing vital caring tasks.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This proposal would only hurt those in need. People receiving this aid who don't qualify under the proposed labor requirements would work if they could, but they can't. It would cause enormous pain and would kill members of my community to no purpose.. Sooner care has provided essential health coverage to friends and members of my community when they were most in need. It has let them go to the doctor when they were most desperate for care, it has been a shield against disaster.. We do not use SNAP in our household. I can easily access the Internet from my home.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Nikolas	Please withdraw the work requirement proposal for recipients of SoonerCare. As a well-compensated member of the Oklahoma workforce, I am fortunate to have the health insurance I need, and I want my tax dollars to support the health of other Oklahoma families who are not as fortunate. This proposal would be ineffective, onerous,	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		and inhumane for parents and children who are already dealing with a difficult reality.	
7/25/2018	Yoon-Hee	I am a neurologist in the community who takes care of patients on Soonercare. These patients are already not able to work because of severe neurological problems and have a difficult time navigating the medical system. Many of them don't have computer access and can't even get to an appointment because of transportation. Creating this extra bureaucratic burden will force many of these patients to lose coverage simply because they can't navigate through the system. Passing this requirement is basically asking them to die. The second issue is that these patients are very unlikely to find a job that provide medical benefits even if they do have a job and if they get a job they will no longer qualify for Soonercare. This requirement is putting them in a Catch-22. If they lose their coverage, their children will lost coverage, too. While I understand that "fraud, waste, and abuse" should be removed within the system, what the system would be creating with these requirements is more waste and abuse on the bureaucratic side. It will not lead to better care. It will, however, leave a large number of patients with no medical options at all. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Micah	Taking away state Medicaid from low income households is not only morally wrong, but ineffectual. If enacted, this policy will further hinder many Oklahomans' ability to be productive and lessen the likelihood of finding meaningful employment. This type of regressive policy is not an incentive or a deterrent from "not working," rather it guarantees to send countless lives on the edge of getting by, and many OK families that are currently working have Medicaid and are getting by, spiraling into an abyss of poverty and vulnerability. We must ensure that working families, too, do not face the implications of not having healthcare assistance for their family. This is bad policy, and does not accomplish greater well being for our state, quite the opposite.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Donna	Please don't cut our sr. Who worked hard most of there life to suffer to chose weather ro eat or take meds	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Kay	Its really sad that this state likes to punish innocent children. The ones that want it taken away are the rich people that have NO IDEA what its like to struggle to make ends meet.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Denise	I find it difficult to believe that our state officials care so little about the lives of the children, disabled, and elderly. I encourage you to consider how this affect the quality of life for so many Oklahoman's. The time a parent spendts	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		with children when they are young, will be of the greatest benefit to society. Withdraw this proposal, stop trying to punish and start promoting a quality of life worth striving for.	your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Jody	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. The decision of ability to work should be made between individual and their doctor.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. People living with MS can't guarantee what life will be like from day to day.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. People may not be able to afford medications or qualify for financial assistance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Carrie	Please do not increase the hoops that busy working families need to jump through for SoonerCare. I want all the people in my community to have access to affordable health care. Otherwise, we ALL pay when disease is spread and when people make expensive trips to the ER that could have been prevented.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Terry	Please don't change requirements on working. My wife and are raising 2 grandsons. I am disabled and my wife takes mainly takes care of the boys. We live out in the country several miles with little chance for a job that would pay for our vehicle maintenance. We would be worse off tha we are now. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Marianne	I am an emergency physician and a Wound care physician in Oklahoma and I strongly oppose work requirements for SoonerCare. My patients would be terribly harmed by this. I have family members who would also be terribly harmed. Furthermore, as a physician the very last thing I want to be using my time on is filling out the paperwork necessary to get my patients the exemptions they would deserve. I want to be taking care of them instead. I already have to pay an army of billing personnel to deal with various insurance problems and already my nurse case manager spends way too much time wading through red tape. The last thing we want or need is more of it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	J. David	Oklahoma's most vulnerable people depend on SoonerCare. Without it, poor people don't go to doctors. All Oklahoma citizens, including children, deserve basic healthcare. Please preserve SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Gregory	I have had employer sponsored healthcare for most of my adult life. However, there were a few years where I had health problems and was not able to work. Having	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		SoonerCare allowed us to cover our daughter during those challenging times and I hope that coverage can remain for others.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Jacquelyn	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Amanda	Please do not allow for changes that would make it harder for families to be approved for SoonerCare. Health insurance is so costly; many families cannot afford to be able to provide health insurance for their children in an economy that continually raises the cost of living without raising the wages of those who are working. No parent should fear taking their children to the doctor. No parent should have to fear being put in crippling debt simply because health insurance for their children isn't something they can afford. Too many parents work and still cannot afford to pay for the high cost of insurance for their children. Please, do not allow the children to suffer. They deserve a right to access healthcare and to see a doctor when they are ill or injured.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Crista	Please don't make these new changes to sooner care. If you want to make a change you should add dental. So many Oklahoman need this, you have already taken so much away from it. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Crista	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	DeLyn	Please reconsider this proposal. Acting "tough" on healthcare issues NEVER makes us healthier. Our state is embarrassingly unhealthy and lacking in resources as it is. Hurting thousands of families just to try to stick it to a handful of "welfare queens" is NOT the Oklahoma Way.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/25/2018	Johanna	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). no. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. this would have a	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		negative impact on a about 6000 oklahomans who are already stuck making a choice between work/healthcare or living in the entirely jobless rural areas. the cost of the requirements and their necessary bureaucracy will impact all oklahomans negatively--we will be spending a lot of money just to hurt a few poor people. oklahoma doesn't have the money to waste on punitive rules.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. it would make a poor and sick state sicker and poorer.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Gayela	Please keep Oklahoma Sooner Care. Two of my grandchildren used Sooner Care when they were babies in order to help them overcome development difficulties. Currently, my son and 2 of his minor children rely on Sooner Care. They lack funds for private insurance. I am 69 and a lifelong taxpayer of the state of Oklahoma. Sooner Care is a good use of my tax dollars.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Brenda	Please keep in mind that most people who receive Medicaid would work if they could. Our daughter had to quit her job in January after falling and hurting her knee and ankle. She has had knee and ankle surgeries and is still recovering. She would like nothing better than to be able to get a job. She is also on disability for cerebral palsy but is capable if the right job can be found Please do not change work require ments for Medicaid.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Nancy	Once again we are showing that we are the least Christian state in the country by trying every way imaginable to keep people from having access to healthcare. Shame on us.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Toni	There are so many families that need Sooner care. Why are we punishing the poor and disadvantaged? Put yourselves in their shoes off everyday life. Just living day to day.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Augustine	Seniors n Children need Sooner Care	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Christina	Please stop harassing poor sick people on Medicaid. They are sick and shouldn't be forced to work to keep receiving help. The poor children on Medicaid shouldn't be forced to go without healthcare either! If you really care about	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		government waste cut the salaries and benefits and expenses of elected government officials! Stop giving corporate welfare and tax cuts to the wealthy and their corporations! That's the real culprit that's draining more trillions of dollars from our treasury and hiking our deficit!	your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Jessica	I work hard and can not afford private insurance for my children. Please let me keep the insurance for my kids	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Cobi	"I think the best way of doing good to the poor, is not making them easy in poverty, but leading or driving them out of it." -Benjamin Franklin	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Shylla	Rather you work or not; able bodied or not; that should not determine rather you live or die; or be withheld medical treatment from sickness or disease. As a community it's a responsibility to ensure our neighbors are treated as human and provided insurance regardless of personal condition, state, or choice. Please let's not turn our back as leaders in doing so sets a tone of division, disregard, and greed. Sickness, health, and mental health is a huge issue. Defunding will cause more harm than good. So many hardworking individuals has invested blood sweat and tears into finding health coverage for all. Please take some time out your busy lives and go to the doctors offices, nursing homes, mental facilities that care for the less fortunate and try to see and understand the root issue before you make such a judgment. Administrative laws, statutes, and rules impede on proper care and costs are skyrocketing not due to the patient but more due to the medical organization. The patient should not suffer for industry causes and effects.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Jennifer	A little over 26 years ago I had my first baby. I utilized Sooner Care during my pregnancy. During that time, I became high risk and was bedridden. I was 19 at the time, and had to stop working. Twenty-six years later, my daughter is a thriving, healthy, dedicated oncology nurse. I am a public school teacher. We are both productive members of our communities who needed assistance, once upon a time. Most people who utilize these healthcare services, such as myself, do so out of necessity. As a state who claims to be pro-life, I hope that the narrative changes regarding people who depend on these types of services. It's not the lazy, manipulative way. It's compassion, and quality of life way.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		It's my hope that these guidelines will be reconsidered for those who may qualify for healthcare services. I could not work during my pregnancy. There are many people, including the most vulnerable in our society, who need this service. I was one of them.	
7/26/2018	Jamie	There are important jobs that have to be done in life that aren't paid. The elderly and terminally ill need caretakers. Stop this foul legislation!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Chris	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It will cause some people in my community to lose health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. The more people who lose health coverage the more detrimental this will be to the community. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This will create an unnecessary hardship for members of my community.. I have had friends and family who would not have been able to deal with their child's medical issues without SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Rebecca	Don't punish me because I'm poor! Or any other man woman and especially child - don't punish us because were poor. Healthcare for all not just the privileged.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Michelynn	I am a retired medical librarian. I have chronic back and joint bone problems. . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. People with regular jobs may be able to get health insurance. Medicaid was never designed to be for those people. This requirement would severely hurt people of all ages, especially those who are primary caregivers for people of any age. Without coverage many will die and both caregivers and the people they care for. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I participate in First Christian Church's care ministry activities and see first hand how much health care our	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		parishioners need beyond what we can give them. Some need it only for a short time - but if they don't get it when they need it may affect their entire family permanently. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Getting the health care they need will enable people of all ages to be active members of our community. . Many can survive short time (<5 years) family health care crises and get back to work with Sooner Care coverage. If they don't get it, they and their families may never be able to work again.	
7/26/2018	Karen	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I know a number of low income people who could not work outside the home either because of their health or because doing so would require them to seek child care that they cannot afford.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would not affect me directly, but I volunteer with several agencies who service clients who would be affected.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Many of the people I work with have irregular work schedules. It is not up to them to decide how many hours they work. If they're are in the fast food or the motel business, their hours depend on their employers.. SoonerCare is the only way they can receive basic health care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Cindy	This is ridiculous why make it harder on a family who is trying to take care of their own when the wages won't increase and employers won't assist with a good medical plan.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Kristina	Please don't take healthcare away from people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Molly	The Medicaid proposal to require adult recipients is misguided, uninformed and will be extremely harmful to these recipients. Many already work, but their hours worked from week to week are highly variable and the workers are totally dependent upon their employers for these hours. What are these people do when they fall short	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		of hours required to qualify for assistance? This proposal will simply punish an already vulnerable part of our population.	
7/26/2018	Fred	Do something right and good for a change. Think of Oklahomans, normal people trying to pursue happiness, especially the young ones who cannot yet understand that their representatives listen to talking heads more than the mass of everyday citizens. Protect them. They deserve it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Lani	I am on SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes, I received a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis in December 2010.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. While I am currently able to meet the proposed requirement of 20 hours of employment-related activities and/or volunteer hours, this has not always been the case nor is there any guarantee it will be the case in the future. Unfortunately, those of us with relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis face constant uncertainty as to our condition, which makes it potentially difficult to meet this requirement, thus jeopardizing our ability to obtain and maintain health coverage through SoonerCare.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Richard	SoonerCare is needed when a parent is unable to work. A work requirement will hurt many if not kill them. When one cannot work they cannot afford medicine or doctor appointments. Take this requirement away so that they will get medical help they need and can then get substantial gainful employment and leave the program fully. Forcing them to work 20 hours may stop ever obtaining gainful employment and cost us more money. Remove the regulation Fallon put on her way out of office.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Katherine	Ok we don't need to let this go through, there is so many Grandparents like me that are raising Grandkids that are either retired or Disabled or just too poor to hardly make it on their own, let alone work extra time to pay for the childcare just so they can work extra hours for them to keep getting Sooner care, I have 2 disabled kids 1 is my Grandson and 1 is my 3rd cousin so please think about this and maybe go a Different route, and I have a mom and dad that neither one of them can or able to work, and they need their medical care just to survive because they don't get Medicare so please think about all the Handicaps and the elderly before you sign anything into law	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/26/2018	Stacy	This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	JaNeal	Do not punish families for struggling to meet their most basic needs by denying Sooner Care under the guise of being fiscally responsible. It is, instead, being fiscally reprehensible.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Lola	Low income families need health care as much as anyone else. How awful to punish someone for not working full time. Many low paying jobs only offer part time employment to avoid providing benefits. Leave this program alone for the sake of Oklahoma low income families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Patricia	I am on SoonerCare (Medicaid). I suffer from severe mental illness, post-polio, failed spinal surgery as well as 3 previous heart attacks with 5 stents in my heart. . I did maybe 40 hours volunteer services in 2017.. I would only support if drug tests were mandated for all medicaid users over 13.. My mental health issues would spiral out of control.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I support the proposal with drug testing.. . Mental health & heat attacks.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Deanna	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Parents would have to find child care in order to work at low-wage jobs. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . Parents haven't had to worry about health care for them and their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Frank	The new Sooner care proposal will hurt Oklahoma families an should be withdrawn, Thank you for listening.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Melissa	I'm tired of politicians putting a tax break above people's needs. Instead of using citizens as a scapegoat why don't you put some legislation toward weeding out corruption in	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		your own agencies and auditing the good ol boys system that makes it hard to live here.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Valarie	Lets keep Sooner care as it was intended, to help families give their children good healthcare without stretching the budget so far that things must be sacrificed.. healthcare should not be one of them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Renee	I would urge you to withdraw the work requirement proposal for Medicaid. The administrative costs associated with this program are unreasonable. This proposal creates more barriers to receiving care for Oklahomans. This proposal specifically hurts the pediatric, elderly, and disabled populations and their caregivers. Again, I urge you to continue to protect the vulnerable populations in Oklahoma SoonerCare serves. Rescind the work requirement proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Dale	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/26/2018	Emma	I urge you to vote no on the proposed work requires for struggling families who rely on Sooner Care and Medicaid. Families are struggling with rising food costs, finding child care and work opportunities. If a person is to ill to work, does not have transportation, or an available job taking away need health care is not cost effective and it is wrong. I am a volunteer at a food pantry and a volunteer to provide weekend food for hungry kids.Many of the adults who need help with food have serious medical problems. Do the right thing withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Wanda	The proposed changes to SoonerCare are devastating to parents and their children who depend on this system to help them with their medical needs. There are many reasons parents may not be able to work enough hours every week to meet new standards. Most families that can work, strive to do so. Affordable health coverage for lower-income households is essential for everyone. You never know when you might find yourself, due to life circumstances, in need of Medicaid assistance. Medicaid is a safety net for households with very low incomes. Many already live a stressful day to day life, adding more paperwork and work mandates is not the solution. Please talk to the people that you are affecting.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Ros	The proposal will go down in defeat because it has been poorly researched. Just another political stab that will cost Oklahoma money for court costs. If a person gets a job, they may no longer qualify for Medicaid. Please note the number of people in our state who receive Medicaid benefits. If they lose this help where will they turn? They will be unable to obtain help with paying for basic health services. This begins yet another downward spiral for many Oklahomans. Do your research carefully because this impacts many people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Andy	Parents in Oklahoma cannot afford to lose SoonerCare, our state's medical program. If parents work too many hours, just to stay on SoonerCare, then they join the ranks of the uninsured. Parents with disabilities and/or chronic disabilities must be exempt from the state's work requirements for Medicaid. Otherwise, they lose coverage due to our current bureaucratic Congress. Please withdraw this deeply flawed proposal now. Thank you!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Vanessa	Please don't take away health care coverage from those who are in need especially our little children & their parents if they qualify	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Lisa	Please don't take away health care coverage from those who are in need especially our little children & their parents if they qualify	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Ellen	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. I work for a nonprofit and I understand that low income families must choose between medicine, food, utilities and transportation. I also know that kids that have better access to healthcare will remain healthier in the future. Medicaid is an investment that saves the state money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Michael	While I support reviewing and reforming existing policies and programs, I do not see how the proposed changes for Oklahoma's Medicaid program will do any good. My understanding is that the state does not even have estimates for how many people could be removed from healthcare support/coverage. Considering we are talking about effecting the lives of some of our most vulnerable neighbors, it makes sense to me to have a clear idea of what the impact will be before implementing those changes. And also to have pre-existing policies for helping people who have trouble with the paperwork requirements before the changes go into effect.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/26/2018	Abby	Will the income limits be expanded so people won't be kicked off due to working.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/27/2018	TSF	This move is unconscionable. Everyone deserves access to health insurance regardless of their ability to work. Has an assessment been completed that would give OHCA the ability to know how many people are work-capable who are not working or looking for work or in training? And does it include a qualitative assessment to help the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		leadership understand the context in which this situation exists? Or is this just another attempt to blame those most in need for their plight? In a capitalist society people need capital in order to get a leg up and this is impossible to do when oppressive policies are implemented. I urge you to stop this process - particularly if this is based on political ideology rather than data and assessment.	
7/29/2018	Anonymous	This is a great idea. Working in the healthcare field daily you see people come in that is on Soonercare/Medicaid that are obviously working the system. There needs to be tighter regulations and drug testing done. There are the ones that need the help and there are the ones that take advantage. I don't understand why the people that have a commercial insurance have Soonercare as a secondary? Why does Soonercare not cover adult wellness visits? Also our state would save a lot of money by doing mandatory drug testing and making individuals show proof of income and drop these people that have commercial plans. There are senior citizens that need Soonercare that do not qualify. The rules need to be stricter and make these people get to work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Cassi	Oklahoma's requested waiver on cutting Sooner Care not only hurts parents, but also their children. Children who already face schools that are poorly funded, and are already living in poverty. This proposal is not transparent, and like many things the current administration is doing- is not the will of the people. Many of the people it will hurt are not able to even comment on this, because they are to busy trying to make it by even with Sooner Care. They trust you to have their best interest, and don't have access to the means needed to know this is even happening to them. Governor Fallin, as of now the people you vowed to serve feel like the current administration, including you, have done, and will do, anything and everything it can under the table and quickly to serve special interests before your term ends. If you believe this is truly what's best for the people, let us vote on it, or save it for session. If it is submitted now, it will be one more reason voters will show up at the polls in August and November to vote out candidates who don't support your agenda. We won't forget. Schools, 788, Healthcare. Don't hurt our states children more than you already have. If you can sleep well at night while pushing this forward, I challenge you to spend a month living like these poor Oklahomans do, and see if you still agree. Take two foster children to if your children are adults. Forget your degree, and see if you can get a job making minimum wage, and still manage it all, including full priced medication, full priced doctors visits, gas, car, childcare, bills, and food. Hope you like ramen.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Curtis	My parents used SoonerCare before their passing.. I have diabetes and reduced kidney function. . I am retired and no longer work.. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would remove aid from some members of the community who need it most.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Work is often impossible for those needing to provide child care or with illness.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This proposal is a short-sighted attempt to remedy a problem that is a myth.. Many approaching Medicare age have health care only because of Medicaid.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Kristen	The proposed change to Oklahoma Medicaid's work requirements would be a disaster for thousands of children and families. Illness and primary and chronic care needs aren't optional; if someone needs medical treatment, it is not something they can put off because the breadwinner in the household earned a little too much to qualify for SoonerCare that month. Moreover, there is no rational purpose served by adding another layer of bureaucracy to keep track of how many hours every adult in these families works and how much they earn. The expense of that would be a substantial fraction of any savings anticipated, on top of the negative consequences to health for those affected. A state with a healthy citizenry is better off than one without. Please do not institute an unnecessary change that will have only negative consequences. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Shawn	Don't remove people from healthcare. Everyone deserves to be able to receive healthcare	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Elizabeth	Making children's healthcare a bargaining chip in politics is inexcusable. When many qualify for SoonerCare by working jobs that are seasonal, shift work, or have other volatile scheduling conditions or qualify through other disability programs that make additional paperwork onerous, this requirement is unnecessary. Many parents also don't make enough money to pay for child care if required to work 20 hours or more a week to continue to qualify for health coverage and services, leaving them in another untenable position. Please do not implement this punitive requirement.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Meadow	I am a social worker and a mental health provider. Do you know how many of my clients struggle daily and yet do not qualify for disability? They all have mental health issues, many have significant health and/or chronic pain issues. These are the people who will be required to work in order to get Soonercare. The mentally unwell, those with depression that will be dismissed as "lazy," people afraid to leave their house crippled with anxiety, people physically unable to stand and unable to maintain a conversation, yet deemed by the government as still "fit to work." And who will suffer most? Their children. Our impoverished receive almost zero help from this state, please don't take the last few options for help away from them. Healthcare is a human right.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Leslie	We ask that you would very carefully consider how you proceed with Oklahoma Sooner Care changes. We have thousands of people here in our state who depend on that care. My six year old daughter is one of them. She was born with a rare metabolic disorder (PKU) and her meds are NECESSARY but they are also expensive and there is no way we could afford them without Sooner Care, because even though it is a lifelong medical disorder and has a multitude of mental, emotional and physical health problems if left untreated or undertreated, she will be turned down if we apply for disability because the standard they set it so high that she doesn't meet it unless we pull her off of all meds and leave her untreated which is not an option. I have been unable to hold a job outside of our home for the last 6, almost 7 years because she requires special medications and an extremely specialized diet as well as being seen by a metabolic specialist every few months and bloodwork done every month. She is now starting First Grade and while she will require medications, diet and Specialists for the rest of her life, her future is BRIGHT and I fear this poorly written proposal will ruin her health and future. This not the way Oklahoma takes care of our own. Please rewrite this proposal and protect the healthcare and welfare of our children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Helen	All children, parents, veterans, disabled, mentally ill and elderly people need free healthcare. Give them the safety of food, shelter and healthcare and they will figure out how to prosper on their own. Make it happen! Bless you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Andrew	SoonerCare proposal will hurt Oklahoma families and they should withdraw it	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Maryann	This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. It is not only bad for the parents but also for their children, and other caretakers.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Michael	Please support a just SoonerCare for the less fortunate!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Stephanie	While completing my first semester in graduate school I found out I was pregnant. As a full time graduate student & single mother, who couldn't work a full time job, SoonerCare was the only option for my son. We kept our coverage for 2 years, while I finished school and started my career. Oklahoma needs to invest in children and families, improve social services, and create revenue for our state by socially responsible and progressive means. Cutting funding for Medicaid is merely adding another embarrassment to our state's list of despicable policies. We must protect insurance coverage for children and families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Nancy	Please do not punish the most vulnerable population in our state. Our system is already flawed and removing low income residents from SoonerCare will create a debacle from which we may never recover. Low income residents already struggle to pay rent and utilities, buy clothes, school supplies, and things they need to run a household on a daily basis. Many parents are in the place they are, because they simply do not have the education and skill set to work outside the home. There are others who are caring for severely disabled children and have no place to leave their loved ones while they work, especially in rural areas of our state. To consider stripping their eligibility for health insurance because they can't work is a tragedy in itself. To punish children because their parents don't or can't work would be devastating. From the perspective of a mental health professional in Oklahoma, I urge you to look further for solutions. The burden of improving the financial status of our great state, must not, and can not be placed on the most vulnerable population.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Debra	Instead of looking for ways to save tax dollars by penalizing the poorest among us, Oklahoma should look for those monies by taxing its' wealthiest citizens and corporations, who can actually afford to pay more. Contrary to the latest report by the Trump administration, the war on poverty has not been won. The war on poor people, however, is making great strides.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Mieke	As a public educator who has worked in both rural , metro & surburban districts, I have seen the importance of our students being able to access health care through soonercare, including and especially children with developmental delays & disabilities. I hope you will leaves these programs in place & support Oklahoma families & children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Megan	I am very concerned about the work requirement proposal for SoonerCare. It seems like an especially cruel requirement for low-income residents of this state and creates a situation in which they are forced to work more and earn more, possibly disqualifying themselves from the program while still not earning enough to cover soaring medical costs. Oklahoma ranks 43rd in the nation for health, and it is clear that policies like this one seek to drop us further down the list by excluding more individuals from needed medical care and preventative services.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Heather	As a mother of 2 children who have disabilities, I have spent more time being a caregiver than working for the last eleven years. Having a job, meeting a work requirement, is not an attainable feat for me and many other parents in this same predicament. To deny them health coverage because they are taking care of their children is punishment and will do nothing but force them further in to a system that is seemingly set up for failure.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Misty	Cutting health insurance for low income parents will not save the state money long term. Parents will die -which will increase costs for Oklahoma's Foster Care Program and will also increase prison costs, as poverty stricken children who grow up without their parents are much more likely to end up in prison. Additionally, more kids in extreme poverty will be physically and sexually abused because their parent won't be there to protect the child from being victimized. Children who loose a parent are also more likely to struggle with mental illness and substance abuse issues which will also cost the state more money long term. Oklahoma should accept the 9 to 1 matching funds for it's Medicaid program. Rural emergency rooms and ambulance services can barely afford to keep their doors open as it is and cutting healthcare insurance to thousands of residents will just leave rural ER's and ambulance services holding the bag. Please consider expanding the Sooner Care program. Let's make Oklahoma a safer place for kids by helping to keep their parents physically and mentally healthy!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Cheryl	Medicaid needs to stay available to all who need it. Please do not lower the benefits. Most people are not happy about needing a hand out. The fact remains it is NEEDED. Please withdraw from this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Shelly	Oklahomans struggle enough without making it even more difficult to afford healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Tina	People are already in bad shape I see nothing but chaos if you choose to decrease this in anyway. You effect everyone when messing around with state healthcare	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Kathy	Please do not add this work hour restriction to the Sooner care program. We need smart regulation not new, punitive regulations that are contrary to the intent of this program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Megan	We should not be putting work requirements in place without taking Medicaid expansion money. This will hurt families and Oklahomans lower the quality of life and put a strain on an already strained hospital system by increasing emergency room visits.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Brandy	We were on Medicaid after my year of post-work insurance ran out and my was in college. We had WIC while I nursed our first son and while I grew our second son. We had food stamps so that I could have good nutrition while I grew and nursed our children. We had Medicaid in case our children were injured so they would have some form of insurance. We didn't have it for many years because it was a pain in the butt to renew but it relieved a huge burden for a time. I didn't work because I was incredibly sick with pregnancy "sickness" for both of my pregnancies. It lasted 6 and an entire 9 months of each child. I didn't work after I had them because daycare would have consumed my paychecks and someone else would have been raising them for no reason. Our children benefitted greatly from my being home for so many years and I wouldn't change a thing. We made the best out of our situation and we didn't "live on the system" more than we needed to. However, there are families with extenuating circumstances and sadly these are the ones targeted with this bill. We must not harden our hearts thinking that the majority abuse the system because the majority doesn't. Do we want to harm them due to the minority? I don't want that on my conscience. Please don't let it be on yours.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Tiffany	Please do not pass the new rules and regulations for SoonerCare. So many children, women and men will lose	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		the only insurance that helps keep them healthy and alive. Not cool Oklahoma! Stop trying to kill or harm the Oklahoma citizens and step up and start taking better care of us. We deserve to live just like the rich people do!!!!	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Jan	I am extremely concerned about the changes to Sooner Care. I don't want people who cannot work to be tossed off. This direction could result in great harm.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	John	I'm a home grown Oklahoman and a small business owner. In this weak economy, when many individuals and families are loosing their jobs or not getting adequate hours to keep food on the table, attaching the work requirement to sooner care is cruel and immoral. Please stop and think about the people this terrible idea will affect.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Jill	Stop messing with people's healthcare. It should be a right - for the rich and poor alike.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Suzanne	Please stop demonizing the poor.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Sandra	You are asking for documented hours, what about someone self employeeed like a realtor that may just be having a bad year? Or a caretaker that can not work and take care of say a special needs child, or elder? If i go to work, and then make some money enough to kick me out of help needed, but not enough to sustain myself then I have shot myself in the foot, and cant get medical help.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Casey	Please do not pass the requirement to work for SoonerCare. I work full time, but my job doesn't provide medical insurance at all. My income still qualifies my entire family for SoonerCare, including my husband who is trying to get back on disability. He was on SSI/SSA for many years, but tried to get off relying on it. However now he is unable to work, and is still waiting for his SSA/SSI to go back in effect. We have been waiting on this process and are now in appeals, and have been for over a year. He would loose the only insurance we are eligible for. I would gladly pay a higher co-pay, especially if it allowed the funding for my husband to keep his insurance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Anette	I believe everyone should have access to healthcare. I have medical issues and don't know how much longer I'll have	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		my insurance. If I can't afford my medicine I'll will die. I was told by my doctors to file for disability but I want to work and I am back in school because I can't physically do what I use to. My granddaughter that is 19 has to have surgery every year on her throat and we don't know how she will be able to get it and she can't live without it. I think if people had free health care there would be less homeless people. Oklahoma is one of the most unhealthy states in America. How can people turn a blind eye when so many people are in need.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Stephanie	My name is Stephanie, and I'm a 54 year old woman on SSI and I receive Sooner Care. I was diagnosed with liver cirrhosis (non alcoholic steatohepatitis, or NASH) 2 days after my 50th birthday in 2014. Because of this illness, I cannot work. Period. Sooner Care is literally saving my life. Cutting it will be a detriment to my health and well being. Would I rather work and get medical benefits through employment? Of course I would! At this time, however, that is impossible. Please do not reduce or alter Sooner Care in any shape or form unless it's to make it BETTER. I, along with thousands of other Oklahomans, could suffer needlessly if benefits are reduced. Please hear our plea! Keep Sooner Care the way it is unless you're going to improve it. I may be only one sick Okie, but my voice, and my life matters.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Mary	My two daughters were covered by Sooner Care while my husband studied engineering, after he had spent 8 years in the military. We are HAPPY to pay taxes that support Sooner Care. Individuals and families must have healthcare, or we as a community pay the higher price in emergency care, or worse, in parents having to forgo education that makes them higher earners. Have sense, think long term. Have compassion, or pay the price in dollars and shame. This state, this country, deserves to nurture its citizens, not step on them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Beverly	Too many families are on an emotional, physical and financial cliff. They work what they can but many can't get anything but a few hours, some try to juggle two jobs, but then it only takes one thing to happen, car trouble, unexpected expenses to feel totally defeated. There has to be a way to try and improve without being scared to death to lose all coverage or what little bit of help you can find.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Amber	I'm concerned for the elderly who can't afford prescriptions like my 73 year old mother . What about adults who have are too low income to get insurance and can't get sooner care because they have no dependant children. Cause that's where I fall.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Diana	Certainly support a better network for patients prescribed care by a care team and physician to be able to ON SITE preferably fill simple prescriptions before they leave their MD or ARNP office. It is actually a violation of medical care rules for anyone or any entity to pre-empt prescribed care. So you need to please understand that failure to provide verifiable access also causes whomever blocked that to be technically subjected to abuse of the patient. So rather than destabilize people who are patients, and their families..... continuity of care UNDER the physicians order is in order. Again, blocking or failure to provide reasonable access is considered practicing medicine without a license and any legislator who does THAT (which is frequently what goes on in OKLAHOMA in policy, custom and law) is the FIRST crime and must be extinguished. It is called systems induced trauma and Oklahoma has perfected it. Please know that funding and access to medicines, in ONE STOP SHOPPING increases compliance, and improves outcomes in prevention..... sometimes preventing things like jails, institutions and death or other complex health or mental health life or family problems. Thanks for FUNDING this option and providing support as suggested. I am a retired professionally trained social worker with 25 years of licensed experience working with people who struggle to stabilize and live in Wellness and Recovery. How about if we use best practices, and complete prescribed care paths by professionals who are looking at next right things?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	David	I write to oppose this policy. It needlessly harms working families and will raise administrative costs. It's a solution in search of a problem.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	C	I have 5 degenerative diseases and or syndromes. I'm a burden on my parents now if I havent Medicaid they will be forced to put me in a nursing home. Please dont do this and cause more stress to those of us that cannot work. I have stage 4 sle without sooner are to help my Medicare my lupus would flare and my kidneys will fail. I already have a DNR I'm not yet 50 yrs. My father is 72 and still works everyday. I worked till my job and dr said no more. I have auto immune issues so do my children that are adults one wont see a dr because she cannot afford it but makes to much for help. The other is on chemo but will have to stop all treatments without sooner are and she will die. How would you feel if this was your family? Thank You fo your time.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Jennifer	Hi. I am a single mother of 5 children with 3 still at home. I am a college graduate and worked very hard to put	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		myself through college. Those dreams of a career were squelched, however when I became disabled in 2009. I am unable to work. I wish very much that I could but if I'm required to work 20 hours a week I won't be able to meet that standard and my children will lose their Soonercare and although I am not eligible for Soonercare, I do rely on another very important medical benefit program through DHS that helps pay my Medicare premiums and keeps my prescription costs low. Without these vital programs, I cease to be able to provide for my family. It is already extremely difficult as it is. Please hear our pleas and cries for help.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Kristin	There's a spiral that people with money and privilege never see. Many people living in poverty get a job to be a functioning member of society. They think having a job will help but then they are only paid a minimum wage which isn't enough to subsist. So they rely on things like public transportation and healthcare funded by the government. Changing SoonerCare perpetuates the spiral of poverty. How can anyone live or work if they are suffering from an illness that they can't see a doctor for? How can they pull themselves out of a poverty spiral when the rules are changed just to keep them there? Don't change SoonerCare. It's one of the few things this state, which claims to be so Christian, has done right.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Barbara	This is a terrible way to administer health care for families in poverty. Why punish them further! It hurts our state and its citizens. We must stop the reactionary, knee jerk response to go along with every bad idea hatched by people who want tax cuts for themselves and to hell with the rest of us! We can and should be good stewards for all our residents rather than punishing them for their shortcomings. Please don't pursue this policy! Do good wherever you can.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Scott	This is another plan to hurt the most vulnerable citizens and children of Ok	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Michael	The new proposed expanded work requirements for SoonerCare will add an undue burden to those struggling with health care in Oklahoma. Please reconsider this action based on facts and not on politics. The majority who receive Medicaid and are able to work already work. This new proposal risks cutting off those who lose jobs and may have a difficult time finding another. Oklahoma already has one of the worst insured rates - and we are one of the top unhealthiest States. We should be doing more for the working poor not making it harder for them to receive benefits.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
7/30/2018	Barbara	As a tax-paying citizen of Oklahoma, I do not understand why this state's current administration wants to take health care away from its poorest citizens. Essential Healthcare should not be denied any Oklahoma citizen. What kind of monster would want to do this? Secondly, as I understand it, if parents work the hours required to stay on SoonerCare, they would earn too much to qualify. This would leave them with no options to be insured or for access to healthcare. Why would you propose this? Please withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	April	This proposal is poorly written and cruel. It doesn't fully take into account the costs of administrating on the Health Care Authority, doesn't account for the burdensome reporting on very low-income parents, and doesn't consider the problem of a spike in the uninsured rate and more parents unable to see a doctor. SoonerCare is not a jobs program. This cruel proposal accomplishes nothing useful from what I can tell. I want my fellow Oklahomans to feel supported in times of need, not further judged and overloaded with this absurd proposal. Thank you for your time.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Diana	Oklahoma's people need SoonerCare! So many grow up in extreme poverty that affects them throughout their lives. Of all states, the overall health of Oklahomans would benefit in myriad ways and needs to accept the financial assistance through Medicaid. Don't turn it down!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Shauna	As a former social worker, I've witnessed first-hand the damage done to hard-working low-income families and individuals who have no options or choices when it comes to health care other than the emergency room. First of all, in all the years I worked as a social worker, I never encountered anyone who was intentionally avoiding work. Every client I worked with wanted a better life, had dreams and hopes, and if they were unemployed and capable of working, wanted to do so. Unfortunately, far too often, they faced a cascade of barriers and challenges with very few resources for overcoming those challenges. Most of my clients were working low-income jobs - often holding down multiple jobs that did not offer health care benefits. Those that weren't working were most often caring for chronically ill family members, children, parents, or had other barriers (often more than one) to employment such as lack transportation, education, mental illness, etc. Low-income families and individuals are rarely covered by insurance from their jobs, which are often part-time or minimum wage, and often intentionally kept part-time by businesses who choose to do so to avoid paying benefits, etc. Low-income families and individuals are almost always already facing a multitude of challenges as described above, with and low or zero resilience. So a car breakdown can end up being a catastrophe for a family	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		already under multiple stresses. This proposal is cruel and heartless, based in a prejudiced myth and deeply immoral judgment against the poor - that somehow poor people don't want to work. Excuse me - this is BS and the exact opposite of what I found in my years as social worker. It is the lack of resources and emphasis in our society on quality of life for all people regardless of income level that continues to keep people shackled in poverty - this in the richest nation on earth. If our elected leaders were really serious about saving money, they'd start addressin g the multitude of interconnected underlying causes of poverty in this state rather than heartlessly targeting a program that provides lifesaving health care to the most vulnerable among us. Please withdraw this proposal. "Love and compassion are necessities. Without them, humanity cannot survive." - Dalai Lama	
7/30/2018	Conna	Withdraw the amendments. They destroy the intent of the petition, overriding the will of the citizens of Oklahoma. They also destroy the potential for a promising new industry that would boost the economy. Added to that, they are without any merit whatsoever except for big pharma. Withdraw them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Sherry	Everyone deserves healthcare without restrictions. OUR state is at the bottom as it relates to health. With these changes I guess we will be number one in deaths realated to poor health access.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Sandi	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This is just another example of squeezing those people already needing help by withholding help they now have. Removing mothers from the Medicaid rolls what weakened the family because they would have no place to turn when they were sick. The only place they would turn is it now already overburdened emergency room. This could create more unpayable medical bills for the state. I think it is time to start thinking about those in need instead of trying to enrich people that already have more than most of us. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Phillip	Please keep Medcaid intact for impoverished and under privileged children and their families. They should not be punished just because the Republican state officials refused to receive federal funds to expand the program and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Republican federal policymakers wanted to give the rich tax cuts.	your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Barbara	You want people to work or lose their Medicaid when the people on Medicaid are sick or incapacitated. That is why they are on Medicaid to begin with. You have set up a nice Catch 22 trap for recipients and a reason to deny them much needed assistance. It does not make sense since it is unlikely to save the program any money (and possibly cost more).	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Conna	Soonercare protects a lot of people, many of whom are children. Please don't destroy their ability to access healthcare. That will create suffering even beyond those directly affected. Most people on Soonercare already work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Gayle	The proposed new requirements for SoonerCare will hurt Oklahomans and will ultimately end up costing the state more to process all the new data for these applications (which has happened in other states that implemented a work requirement.) This proposal creates a catch-22 for parents -- if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they likely will earn too much to qualify and yet with part time jobs, they don't get medical insurance coverage. So these folks join the ranks of the uninsured and will end up overwhelming emergency rooms and the hospitals pick up the cost and end up passing that on with higher rates for those with insurance. An Oklahoman taking care of her children and elderly mother should not have to worry if she can afford a doctor when she's ill. A father with an irregular work schedule should not have to choose between a meal and his insulin. That's why SoonerCare is there to ensure that our most vulnerable families can get essential health care in time of need. From all I have read, the majority of people on SoonerCare are not freeloaders and have legitimate reasons why they need access to SoonerCare. This idea that SoonerCare is loaded with lazy people who just don't want to work is a fallacy. And ultimately if this proposal is enacted, it will end up costing the state more money than SoonerCare itself just to process the applications. Of course, the hope of the proponents of this change, is that people simply won't apply. But the end result of that will be to transfer the burden of cost to hospitals and especially in rural areas, force the shut down of those hospitals. The state has an obligation to protect Oklahomans in need!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Pamela	Please leave Sooner Care as it is. As a retired teacher, I know how many families and children depend on Sooner Care and would do without health care otherwise.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Billie	People deserve healthcare. We should be helping those in need. If anything we need to increase services. Do the right thing for those less fortunate regardless of the reason.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Michael	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Required medical care will go neglected or, if medically necessary, further impoverish the parent.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Children will not receive the medical care they require. This proposal will further impoverish the working poor. Many of them may choose to "do without" or be forced into untenable situations in which they must pursue resources to pay for medical services.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Children will not receive the medical care they require. This proposal will further impoverish the working poor. Many of them may choose to "do without" or be forced into untenable situations in which they must pursue resources to pay for medical services.. Required and necessary medical procedures were available to my family's children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Del	I find the work requirement proposal to be the worst kind of political pandering. The cost of developing and administering such a program would exceed the expense of coverage, especially when considering the expansion of emergency room treatment it would almost certainly generate.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Samantha	Sooner care has helped out many people with health issues. Some do work while having it while others can't do to their health issues or conditions. Some have body conditions that stop them from having a job, with them having sooner care helping them with those conditions is helping them maintain their issues. Not everyone has the ability to work or money to buy medicine if it came down to having to work in order to have sooner care. Everything is expensive. Sooner care has helped people in many ways especially on medicine. Medicine is very expensive and high. Not many can afford to pay monthly on health insurance. Sooner care plan is perfect the way it is now. There is no need for change. Think of all the people it is helping today including pregnant woman, people with	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		health issues, disabilities, and body conditions. Why make people suffer more than what they are? I pray that the new rule does not go through. Many peoples lives depend on soonercare's help and benefits.	
7/30/2018	Danielle	Without soonercare, my two of three special needs children would not have access to vital medical care. This could be catastrophic for my family, but a death sentence for some children. My husband and I both work, but do not have the financial capability for regular insurance, premiums, and prescriptions. Without boosting the minimum wage, this could lead to more illnesses as families will not be able to go to the doctor as often, and those illnesses will be spread. More people may not vaccinate due to the cost as well.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Samantha	Please keep Soonercare and Medicare/Medicaid as it is. It would hurt so many people that can't afford insurance. I know everyone that is currently on Soonercare, Medicare, and Medicaid really truly appreciates the medical care our children, moms, grandmothers and us single moms are blessed to receive right now. Please don't make any changes that will make take away the little help we get. Thank you so much for everything! Have a blessed day!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Kimball	The proposal seems seriously flawed. We need to protect the most vulnerable among us, not cut their lifeline. Health care should be a right, not a privilege.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Mary	I request that Sooner Care be preserved for our most vulnerable citizens. The requirement to work 20 hours per week is not feasible for many parents of children in Sooner Care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Michael	Oklahoma's proposed Medicaid work requirements are bad and unnecessary for both parents and their children. This proposal is deeply flawed and should not be enacted. We should be providing greater access to healthcare, not less.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Deborah	the work requirement is an unreasonable demand. All it will do is take away health insurance from people who need it and tax our already overburdened emergency medicine system. Oklahoma needs more people with any form of health insurance, not less. All this requirement would do is move burden around and save no one any money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Barbara	I am the Director of the Oklahoma Perinatal Quality Improvement collaborative and a former Labor & Delivery RN at OU Children's. I have the privilege of working with staff of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to work towards improving our goals of reducing infant and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		maternal severe morbidity and mortality. Unfortunately, Oklahoma always is in the bottom 10, and often the bottom 5, in maternal health outcomes. I believe the largest driver of these poor outcomes is the fact that many women in Oklahoma can only access health care during pregnancy. In order to improve the health of our state, we need to improve the health of our women and infants - we need to view women's health as a continuum and not only as incidents of pregnancy. It is so frustrating to hear about women who lose their SoonerCare coverage either immediately after giving birth (Soon-to-be Sooners) or at 6 weeks. How can a woman access birth control and be healthy before and between pregnancies without health insurance? Job requirements will decrease the number of women who are covered by SoonerCare, thus making our health outcomes even worse. We must remember that these outcomes are people and this requirement will make the lives of these people, which probably already are lived under an umbrella of chaos and living moment to moment, even worse. Please do not enact this work requirement. It is bad for the citizens of Oklahoma.	your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Alice	Taking the basic necessities from the most vulnerable is cruel and mean spirited. Please stop.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Gayle	This proposal leaves far too many unanswered questions. The most shocking and potentially dangerous is what if a single, diabetic mother of one child were to earn in excess of one-half of the federal poverty line for a month or two? She would lose her benefits, in all likelihood she would be unable to manage her illness, she could very possibly become so ill that she would be unable to work, perhaps require hospitalization or even die. The expenses incurred to the state then are multiplied several fold. The Medicaid program can stand improvement, but this proposal is not it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Tammy	SoonerCare helps millions of children, elderly and disabled. Without they not be able to see a doctor or purchase medication. Most cannot work and cannot afford other insurances because social security checks are too low, they barely pay for housing costs! Please help these families and do not touch SoonerCare!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Vangie	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. The cost of administering the program would likely outweigh the gains from identifying folks who should not be in the system. Data consistently demonstrate that these programs	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		are ineffective. It places an undue burden on already burdened parents.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. The types of jobs available to these parents are likely to be those with inconsistent work schedules, which makes finding care for dependents terribly difficult.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Pricing parents out of Medicaid and forcing them into a system they cannot afford is heartless.. Healthy children learn better and exit school better prepared to contribute to society.	
7/30/2018	Anette	Oklahoma is one of worst states when it comes to health and one of the poorest states. What about the college student that can't afford medical? The mentally ill? The mother trying to raise her children but can't afford the doctor bills. It cost \$150 to see a doctor that's not including if they run any test. Yes I believe helping people. Wages hasn't kept up with the cost of living. Bad things happen to good people that may need a little help till they get back on their feet. Please we must help the less fortunate.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Amy	Please do not take health insurance away from low income people. Not having medical care makes everything else worse. Without health how can we expect people to have healthy families and children? We need to help people, not punish them. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/30/2018	Alisa	Losing coverage worsens health for all groups, which is why physician groups like the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and others oppose Medicaid work requirements. I do not support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I do not support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I do not support this proposal because it creates a catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
7/31/2018	Betty	We need a medical safety net for the most vulnerable Oklahomans! Many adults with disabilities cannot fulfill work requirements. Furthermore, work requirements detract from their and their dependents' ability to seek adequate healthcare. In many rural areas, seeking healthcare requires driving many miles and/or receiving healthcare only on designated days.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/1/2018	Jackie Hine	If you are an active tribal member, are you exempt from the work requirements ?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/2/2018	Melissa	Thank you for including an exemption for American Indians in the waiver. This is in alignment with the federal trust responsibility of the federal government to provide healthcare to American Indians pursuant to treaties. Also, it continues to support the 100% FMAP reimbursement the state receives from the federal government.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/3/2018	Russell	I don't know how to adequately respond to such a vicious attack on children and the poor parents of Oklahoma. This state always manages to find money to shower on oil companies, cut inheritance taxes for the rich, throw a million plus dollars to Amazon and multi-billionaire Jeff Bezos for locating one of his sweatshop warehouses here, yet goes begging to Washington to punish Oklahomans for not working enough hours which in turn will likely disqualify them from the SoonerCare coverage. Some of our so-called leaders need to wake up and realize that these cuts are not only terrible for struggling families, but also undermines thousands of jobs staffed by nurses, doctors, and other caregivers that depend on the Medicare and Medicaid programs to continue operating health clinics, home health care providers, and nursing homes. Oklahoma needs to expand Medicare, not continually wage economic war on the most vulnerable residents of the state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/3/2018	Eric	I am a teacher at a middle school. This is my first year. If these requirements pass, Oklahoma will force me to either pay some of my bills, or pay for health insurance. I will not be able to do both if my wife and I want to continue to have insurance. This is ridiculous. My wife takes care of our children fulltime. She deserves basic healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/3/2018	Richard	The new policy will harm families. Retract it and let our new governor handle it. Fallin is on the way out and had zero rights to harm people with this. Families need soonercare at all cost!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/3/2018	Chera	Many families cannot afford daycare to work and to do this to stay at home Moms is unconscionable. My daughter in law had to have SoonerCare at one time for herself and her baby. She had tried to work but could not afford daycare and rent. If there was an actual living wage in this state maybe it would be doable. But to deny healthcare to children based on the parent working enough hours is unfair and MEAN.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/3/2018	Coleen	Women and men need healthcare. You are not going to save money by demanding that they work x amount of hours. People are doing the best they can. They need to be able to be there for their families, if they cannot afford healthcare or a car or clothes, how will they be able to work. You will make them mentally/emotionally/physically ill by taking away their healthcare. Plus, if they make x amount of dollars, they get no healthcare, though we know those who have healthcare through their companies and work fulltime often cannot afford the medicines, doctor's appointments, and procedures they need because of their copay for the procedure. Plus, many cannot even afford to purchase healthcare through their companies, it is just too expensive. PLEASE HAVE A HEART AND A BRAIN. We are not yet a third world country though we are becoming one exactly because of actions that have been suggested such as this one. PLUS, how much will it cost to monitor people's work hours and when they can actually get work and when they are laid off. YOU are creating a nightmare and much more expense than just giving people the healthcare. I cannot imagine going through this. Luckily, I am now on Social Security and SSI so I have medicare and Medicaid. If this had happened a few years ago, I am not sure I could have dealt with it. AND BELIEVE me, we all want to work and be productive. FINALLY, what about parents and caretakers. Someone who is taking care of their parent. IT would cost the government much more to put the parent in a nursing home, plus it would not benefit the parent to be there. Then there are children who need to be taken care of. THIS IS JUST CRAZY.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/3/2018	Rebecca	I'm a retired special education teacher. I have taught in FL, OK, TX, & CA. The ages ranged from 2 1/2 to 21 years old. I'm also a former Special Instructor for OU College of Education. The economy is terrible for finding jobs, but the need for Sooner Care is growing, not just for special needs children. Personally, I know many families have a child/children that literally need/needs 24/7 care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Debbie	We need to provide easy access to all individuals in Oklahoma who need Sooner care, without any barriers. There are too many scenarios that could possibly prevent a parent from working "enough" hours. Please do not create ridiculous barriers to Sooner care. No work hour requirements for parents, or any individual	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Charles	This is a gravest threat to the health of the most vulnerable citizens of our state. I am asking that you withdraw this legislation immediately.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	David	Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is David McDonald, Sr. I am a current recipient of public assistance (Cleveland County) and I'd like to take the time to weigh in on the constitutionality of the work requirement proposals, as I don't think many are aware of the 1984 Supreme Court ruling in the case of Tony and Susan Alamo Foundation v Sec'y of Labor. The case centered around reconciling grants which have a work component written into it with the Fair Labor Standards Act. The court ruled that ANY grant requiring a work component to access the money cannot require more work than would constitute minimum wage earnings for the grant amount. In other words, in order for these provisions to be constitutional, the state would be forced to accept any amount of work that hit this threshold as fulfilling the work requirements however small, or else provide significantly more money to the grant in order to insure enforcement of the requirement. Absent these two options, the requirements are simply unconstitutional, as admitted continuously by the feds throughout the administrations of the past 20 or so years, especially those in the role of HHS Secretary.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Lesia	It doesn't make sense economical wise to cut insurance for people in need. The income requirements now are too low and to put new restrictions would devastate many. Emergency room visits will only go up or people will not be able to go to work if they can't stay healthy because they can't afford health care. This will only hurt Oklahoma. The state looks bad enough without making us look more heartless. This is not how you improve the state or your voters.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Kathy	Please protect SoonerCare, Oklahoma families will be in terrible trouble without it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Samantha	Health care coverage is already way too high priced. Taking away sooner Care would be horrible for so many families that rely on it for the well being of children and/or they're elderly family members!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Nova	It is written to take care of the widows and orphans. We must not allow this to take place as it would take from so many people men women and children of all ages that need health care. Be it for check ups or emergency. I know of so many people that need this insurance to be able to afford to take their family to the doctor. Don't stop their much needed care!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/6/2018	Tammy	Leave Soonercare like it is! Without my son would not be able to get his medication!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Robert	This action does not represent the "Oklahoma Spirit" in my opinion. In fact, it kicks those who are already down. We are much better than this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Karen	My son is a single father, works hard everyday and makes a little over so now my grandkids lost there insurance. Please lower the qualifying limit.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Sally	This is necessary. It is shameful to think it isn't! This program has saved lives, including my child! It must continue! This should not even BE an issue, if you consider yourselves moral! I demand proper action to keep this in place!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Jennie	Many children depend on SoonerCare, please, don't burden this beneficial program with unnecessary requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Cindy	The new SoonerCare proposal is not good for Oklahoma, we don't want to see struggling families and elders hurt by this foolish proposal. We want to make Oklahoma a great state again, a fair state, where we all can thrive. Let's be smart and make our state inviting to businesses so we can have real economic development. This senseless proposal will create more suffering and more crushing poverty. No business wants that. No decent person wants that. Our most vulnerable families need to get essential health care in time of need. I'm hoping sensible people will prevail and do the right thing for Oklahoma, to make us proud again.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Steve	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	
8/6/2018	Angelia	SoonerCare has helped my family, by allowing me to get my son, the medicine and therapy and doctor visits he needs, to control his anxiety and mental disabilities. Without SoonerCare, I could not afford his medication, several costing me \$400 per month, per bottle. With these medicines, he is able to function, learn, interact, and cooperate in a classroom setting and be like every other child. Please don't mess with the insurance. Our children need it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Precious	SoonerCare is invaluable to the state of Oklahoma. Increasing red tape on soonerCare recipients is both ignorant and immoral.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Ivy	I am concerned that the work requirement will push struggling Oklahoma families into crisis. Children cannot be protected if their parents are unhealthy or hurt. I believe that most parents want to work to take care of their children, but not all have that option every week, and this punitive step to take away their health care could be a blow that rips families apart at just the time they need help. I hope that the plan to take SoonerCare from vulnerable parents is withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Debra	Children and families living in poverty should not be denied healthcare /SoonerCare! They deserve the same rights privileged children have. These children are OUR OWN	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/6/2018	Sarah	I am a SoonerCare recipient. I am also waiting on Social Security to make a determination about my disability. I cannot work. I know a guy who would have died without SoonerCare. Get on board with Medical Marijuana and you won't have any funding concerns.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Joseph	Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Medicaid Wavier Proposal as it pertains to SoonerCare. The work requirement proposal not only poses a threat to health of low-income Oklahoma families, but also threatens the health of the state as a whole. As proposed, the requirement jeopardizes the ability of low-income Oklahoma families to receive the necessary care and treatment required to function as productive workers in the Oklahoma economy. Working Medicaid recipients generally lack jobs that provide health insurance or stable hours, such as jobs at Big Box stores, and Medicare serves to fill this gap. Workers that are either unable to obtain the necessary hours required from their employer, or to properly fill out the paperwork, risk losing access to treatment and preventative healthcare. Loss of healthcare access threatens the ability of employees to work, in turn causing unemployment, reduction in sales tax revenue for state and local governments, and increase in use of costly, emergent healthcare services. As designed, the work requirement will remove many Oklahomans from Medicaid and threaten their ability to work and contribute to our economy and society. Please consider recinding the wavier.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Sandra	You work for the people not your own pockets. No one deserves to get sick, or die because they dont have money to see the Dr. Its cruel to to take this awsy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Tamra	Please withdraw this proposal. I need soonercare and am afraid I would be eliminated from coverage!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Bonny	I am in opposition ro your proposal to cut Sooner Care frim those showing they dint work enough hour...some cant.. This should not be a reason to take awAy the only help some have.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Toni	Please protect Soonercare for thousands of Oklahoma families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Deanna	I have actually seen the disservice that the cuts to our Oklahoma soonercare have met with the children and elderly in Oklahoma. Other states fund their Medicaid at a much higher rate offering better services and quality of care. I don't understand why Oklahoma has to fall so low in the funding area which prevents quality services and care for the families of Oklahoma. Specifically in the mental Health Arena Oklahoma provides less services and even less appropriate services for the needs of individuals. If we don't identify and get the specific Services individuals will never overcome whatever ailment they face. And they will never be a productive part of our society. Therefore we just have the same circle going round and round with no hope in sight.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Susan	This new plan will hurt families and the elderly. Please do not put it in place...REJECT IT!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Niomi	Please dont cut medicare soonercare my son needs its as he is in kidney faliture and needs a kidney transplant to survive and we love pay check to pay check anti rejects meds are super experience plese don't take out help.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Vanessa	How does depriving people of health care help ANY community? Stop trying to make it harder for lower and middle class workers to live a decent life. Letting people suffer and die because they didn't report enough hours worked is asinine.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Kerri	The thought that we, as a society, are focused on victim shaming is just too much. In this country of riches, why are we attacking the poor? It is my opinion that any legislator that is considering cuts or penalties on the poor, should be required to work with an organization that serves the poor for at least a month before making the final decision. Legislators often have no idea what the marginalized in our society have to face every single day. I beg you. Don't support any restriction, cut, extra effort on the part of "the least of us". It's unjust and unethical. Stop it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Leslie	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	
8/6/2018	Kim	Protection for Sooner Care Please!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/6/2018	Lisa	SoonerCare was built to ensure that low-income families get essential health care, not to punish families for losing a job or missing some paperwork. The state's new proposal is unworkable and should be withdrawn. SoonerCare already cuts off at this income, which is only slightly above minimum wage for some families. Under this proposal, parents face a Catch-22. If they manage to work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they would make too much to remain covered — even though they are still earning far below the poverty level. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families. This proposal does not appear to consider the effect on those who will lose coverage under this proposal. SoonerCare is not a jobs program. This attempt to distort it into one will only increase costs and prevent Oklahoma families in poverty from getting the care they need	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/7/2018	Nikki	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected.	your comments under advisement.
8/7/2018	Tom T	The current proposal to implement work and/or community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Mary	Regarding the Waiver for the Work/Community Engagement, if approved by CMS, I think the long term care profession would be an excellent partner in this process. Long term care communities are experiencing a critical shortage of direct care workers, dining staff, and other non-technical areas. - Training for certified nurse aides is available throughout the state. Most of these positions start at \$10/hr. with opportunities for advancement and a career ladder such as becoming a licensed practical nurse or a registered nurse. - Jobs are readily available, with or without any additional training. - Volunteer positions are also available that could provide important exposure to the long term care profession to encourage a career path. - Hours for employment in long term care are very flexible and accommodating for parents who need to manage work schedules to meet the needs of their family. - Not-for-profit organizations would meet the requirement for religious or community organizations service programs. - Not only would these organizations help meet the work/volunteer requirement, they could offer many career opportunities for long term benefit from the work arrangement to put the individuals on a path for financial independence with job security for the future. I realize some are not able to meet the work requirement, but for those who do, this could be a viable solution for them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Deanna	I appreciate what you are trying to do to provide low income people with health care. I know it's a tough job. I think the new requirement to withhold Medicaid from non-working people is a very bad idea. I hope this can be changed or worked around.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Irene	Healthcare should not be for the privileged but for all. Circumstances and environmental elements are individual, and to eliminate this really necessary part of providing for needy families is basically cutting off their air supply. Shame to all who think they can determine the fate of those in need or deem to judge them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Mindy	My daughter is doing this daily.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Betty	Please do not change Sooner Care. As a retired teacher I have taught many many children who would not have medical care if their parents (many from single family) did not have this coverage. Once while shopping in Wal Mart overheard this elderly man tell the lady next to him that she needs her meds that they would just cut their grocery list. How sad why would you even consider messing with this issue. Please please please DO NOT change requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Dianna	Taking coverage away from lower income families is not a good idea. My husband works his butt off and I work too, and still can barely make ends meet. We have 2 children with Special Needs and they wouldn't get the care they need without SoonerCare. Please reconsider and dont punish those of us who are doing our very best to have a roof over our heads and food on the table.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Teresa	This will only cause more of Oklahoma's children to suffer. Pkease stop taking away support from low income or no income citizens in need. I work with low income earning parents who have no insurance. They work hard. No health care. So...I cant imagine tge hardship a person has to have to get help to begin with. More children will be left alone at home. If a person works..they may lose what little help they receive. Its inhumane and cruel.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Teresa	Let us help everyone, including the poor, get basic healthcare consistently and without penalty. Please remember that we are only as strong as our weakest links. My high-end healthcare and health are at risk if those around me cannot stay well.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Deborah	This is the only healthcare some children have.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/8/2018	Marilyn	Oklahoma should not be making it more difficult for citizens to have insurance. Until you face the fact that many pay insurance and still cannot afford to use it, much less ones that simply cannot afford insurance. Oklahoma Insurance on everything is out of sight. It's really a shell game. They promise to pay and try all day to get out of paying anything. It's been years since good insurance existed for the low income. Government should be helping, not taking away. Many get injured at work and do not know where to go. They get screwed and now cannot work and cannot afford insurance. It's deplorable.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Irene	Many jobs have changing schedules that are not conducive to putting multiple jobs together. Putting more barriers to benefits will just land more people in the emergency rooms and cause chaos.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Autumn	Expand coverage.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Janet	This work requirement plan for Medicaid recipients is not well-thought-out. The recipients are recipients because they live at a poverty level and would not be able to pay for child-care for 20 hours/week, are not likely to have reliable transportation, AND would make just enough, barely, to make them lose their qualification for Medicaid. So, essentially, they'd be denied healthcare! This is a mean-spirited plan conceived by people who have no real idea of what it's like to live in poverty. We count on you to NOT allow this idea to become reality.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	JoBeth	This work/community engagement proposal is not going to help Oklahomans relying on state aid to move towards more self-sufficiency. Putting an additional burden on people who are already struggling to provide for all their own needs is a waste of state resources - given all of the exemptions, it is likely that the people this is aimed at are actually looking for work but have trouble finding it due to situations like having a past involvement in the criminal justice system or lack of transportation. Taking healthcare away from people who cannot meet these requirements won't make our state wealthier or healthier.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Andrea	More than three-fourths of the nearly 6,200 people that would be subject to Oklahoma's proposed Medicaid work requirements are mothers. The state is asking the federal government to approve a waiver requiring people to work, volunteer or participate in job training 20 hours a week unless they qualify for an exemption.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		An analysis of Oklahoma's proposal by the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families and Oklahoma Policy Institute found 78 percent of the 6,193 adults the work requirements would apply to are mothers. They're most likely to live in rural areas and small towns. And they will be in deep poverty, most earning less than \$400 a month for a family of three. 85 percent of these parents have been in the workforce or have a family member that has been in the workforce over the past six months. Because Oklahoma didn't expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, only adults living at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level are eligible. That's under \$800 a month for a family of three. That is ridiculous. Were this change to come to pass we are only further contributing to cycles of poverty and poor health in Oklahoma. This change puts a mom trying to hold down a minimum-wage job in a predicament. If a mother who makes minimum wage only works 86 hours that month, then she's going to be considered too wealthy and would lose her health care coverage. We must reject the requirement change. While Oklahoma would tie Medicaid eligibility to work, unlike other states with Medicaid waivers, Oklahoma is not doing anything to help those affected find work. The process for those seeking an exemption is unclear and Oklahoma's reporting requirements will likely be too difficult to comply with, leading to people unnecessarily losing coverage. There could also be an increase in the number of uninsured children because while kids qualify for coverage even when parents don't, uninsured parents are more likely to have uninsured kids. This change will bring about multiple legal challenges at a great cost to the state in money, resources, and reputation. Rejection of this change is a must to protect mothers and their families in Oklahoma.	
8/8/2018	Tara	Daycare? Who will be watching the children. Taking medical care away from low-wage workers in unstable jobs is not only ineffective in promoting employment, it may be counterproductive, since losing access to regular treatment can make it harder for people with serious health needs to look for and keep a job.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Annie	Please protect Sooner Care for these most vulnerable recipients! Please don't penalize these people who need this so much to just make it in their day to day lives! Thank you for taking my letter.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Aimee	In 2004 I was diagnosed with depression. I have struggled with this until recently. Part of the struggle was being unable to find someone who would listen to me when I said the medication didn't help. But the biggest part of the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		struggle was not having insurance. Thanks to SoonerCare and a doctor I recently started seeing who did listen, I'm now getting treatment. But I still struggle with other aspects of mental illness. I also have a child with severe depression and anxiety and another that is high-functioning autistic. I work where and when I can. During the school year I substitute but haven't been able to find anything else that works with the needs of my family. Taking away SoonerCare would also take away my treatment. Taking away my treatment would make me worse in every way, especially now that I have hope for the first time in a long time.	your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Carol	Do NOT cut medical care for the poor! This proposal is horrible! The people of OK deserve better!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Angela	There's not many employers that would be willing to work someone at exactly 20 hours a week. I'm a child welfare specialist and I have clients (parents struggling to do everything possible to provide a safe environment for their children, provide for them and stay healthy to tend to them) that get hired part time at the only type of job they can get and they're usually forced to work however many hours their employer assigns them on that weeks schedule. They don't have the ability to tell their employer "Sorry but I can't work less than or more than 20 hours". The employer would tell them they have to work what they get or none. These parents are already struggling to pay rent, utilities, daycare (usually have co-pays even with daycare assistance), basic needs and household items. I find most of these parents have medical issues they can't afford to tend to proactively with regular checkups or medications and are then forced to go to the emergency room which they will never be able pay for. If a person has a child that qualifies for soonercare then the parent(s) should automatically qualify, as well. For those adults without children then their expenses should be taken into account so even if they work 40 hrs per week they could possibly still qualify for SoonerCare. I have HealthChoice insurance which I believe is very good, but even paying my out of pocket portion is a struggle for me. I can imagine how hopeless and distraught people would be knowing they can't afford to pay for needed medical care and no hope of having insurance. Very sad.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Ninetta	Adding burdens to the poor that especially target women is incomprehensible. In order to empower the poor, education and opportunity must be available to those that need it the most. Work , school and volunteering requires childcare , appropriate clothing ,tools and transportation.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		This proposal will kill more people than provide any benefit now or later.	
8/8/2018	Melissa	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Jeffrey	Hourly work for many low-income adults fluctuates weekly, providing more or less hours according to the season and demand. Thus, requiring a set amount of work hours will mean that a family could easily lose their health insurance at the whim of their employer's scheduling. Further, single parent families deal with the stress of managing the lives of their children as well as their personal lives and work lives. Every parent requires the flexibility to attend to the needs of their families - school conferences, doctor appointments, and basic needs at home. If an emergency arises, it may require them to take time away from work, reducing their work-hours and causing them to lose medical coverage. In the attempt to be a good parent, they risk losing health coverage required to keep their family healthy. Finally, the burden of submitting work-hour reports adds to the long list of demands for parents. Poverty already demands much time and psychological energy to organize finances, hours, and people in order to be stable. Adding another burden of organizing to the individual citizen will cause further burden, stress, and may result in loss of health care because they merely missed getting the report in on time. We are a family-values state. We must uphold the value of keeping our working families healthy, safe, and capable of care. The less care provided for working families in poverty results in further care issues (health/psychological/school/prison). Do not exacerbate the problems our state and our families already face.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Betsy	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Negatively. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
8/8/2018	Angela	I'll be honest. I don't know exactly what this Medicaid Waiver does. What I do know is that a number of vulnerable people, who I know personally, are being hurt and used as pawns. The only thing that should happen with Medicaid, and Health Insurance is it should be available to everyone. These people are doing the best they can in a situation that this Republican party has created. If someone is Bi-polar and schizophrenic, as my friend's sister is, they should not have to worry about if she can get and afford her medicine. I personally can show you many instances where these policies have hurt people. Since I know that I can't be the only one who knows people who have been personally effected, it makes me wonder about the people who created this mess. Do they simply ignore their family members who are suffering? Do they care about them at all?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Lydia	Please do not pass work requirements for low income individuals trying to get assistance. As someone who has worked with low income families for years, I have observed the huge obstacles they face in finding work. Two major reasons why they struggled to find work were due to lack of transportation and daycare options. Some traveled 3 hours one way to get to a job using public transport (dropping kids off at daycare, then heading to work)... I know I couldn't maintain that sort of schedule in the long term. Could you? Currently, Oklahoma daycares are shutting down all over the state and there is a major shortage. What are parents of young children supposed to do? These kind of regulations only serve as another obstacle for families to be able to move toward greater independence. They demonstrate an ultimate distrust of low income individuals steeped in stereotypes about "welfare queens" that have been proven over and over again to be unfounded. One major thing I have learned working with these families is that any one of us is one or two tragedies away from being in the exact same position. Low income individuals are not a different breed of person in need of babysitting. And they certainly don't need MORE obstacles to receiving assistance. I have a masters degree and I often struggle to assist individuals with navigating all the systems that are supposed to be helping them. Please do not add another obstacle in the way of a person getting help. I guarantee it will do far more harm than good.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Stacie	This proposal is bad for hard working family's and their children. There has not been enough research done on how this will effect family's who depend on SoonerCare. Do not pass this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Anonymous	If I decide to write a comment about this, it might would read something like this: There are a couple of passages from a very famous book that I would like to use to state my position on this matter. I will use a modern translation of the passages in the book as follows: 1) The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me; 2) I don't have any money, but I will give you what I have. And, what the speaker gave was more priceless than money; He cured and brought a greater remedy to the problem; and, 3) The poor you will always have with you in the land... but, you are commanded to open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy, and to the poor in your land. Now, it is not my intent to preach a sermon here nor inundate anyone with a bunch of scriptural text. However, it is my intent to bring to your attention that they poor are among us to represent more than a bunch a people who refuse to shoulder their weight or are just plain lazy. They are left among us because we would never see the need and extend our hand to help that need to anyone outside of me, my four, and no more. If Medicaid is no longer the solution or remedy to help the poor, then don't just cut it, find a better remedy - bring healing to the situation. The way the State is wanting to go about bringing a resolution is anything but an alternative to the fact that we are unable to offer silver or gold. Yes, if something must be done, then by all means, do something. But, please do something better than what you have proposed. Don't make the poor poorer!!! I guess I did decide to write something, didn't I? :-)	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Gretchen	School teachers are under insured for the money and the only way my daughter can make ends meet is with soonercare for her children. She supports 7 ppl. Please don't take her soonercare...to insure her children would cost over \$800 a month of her \$2400.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Anna	This is insane! What really got me was that there were no provisions "to help these parents overcome barriers to employment such as childcare, job training or transportation." This is just torture. Wanting to help people get a job is one thing. People actually getting jobs is another thing. You can't make people get jobs, and this is not any kind of encouragement for people who are already in hard places. Tax breaks, free child care, free or reduced cost medical coverage; these are the kinds of things that can help motivate people to get a job, not raping them of their basic benefits that barely cover their human needs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		There are always people that will try to take advantage of any system, but this sounds more like throwing disadvantaged folks out into the cold, naked. Makes me sick.	
8/8/2018	Kathy	I work with lower income families in the area of mental health. I agree with having adults work and lessen the load on our nations economy. But I don't believe it should be a blanket that covers all. A parent should be able to be at home to take care of their little ones and a son or daughter should be able to care for an elderly parent if needed. I understand that some people will use the system. No matter what we do, some people will lie. In some cases, the parent should only have to work part time. Too many of our children go home to an empty house and idle hands take over. Things to think about. Please look in your hearts and pray about what our state should do. Those who can work, should, but we are also here to take care of our poor and disabled. I pray that God will give you wisdom and answers. Please look back on the welfare to work program we had years ago. Parents who could not find jobs volunteered. It was wonderful for our non-profits! Thank you for your time in reading my letter.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Kim	Hateful and ridiculous policy that Judy further proves that Oklahoma hate the impoverished.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/8/2018	Alicia	If the state wants to enforce work requirements it should have to provide employment for those individuals who can work and waive income caps for first 2 years. Otherwise how will these families be able to benefit or get ahead without crippling medical bills? The income cap makes it impossible for families to simultaneously qualify for the benefits they and their children need and work more. I once had a young woman work for me for 2 weeks and then she received a letter that her benefits for her son would be cut off because she now made too much money, by about \$40 per month, so she quit. Her child had special health care needs and his medical needs came first.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Brasha	I am not currently on SoonerCare but I have been in the past. This a great program AS IT IS because it allows those low-income families to actually have the ability to get healthcare coverage. It is no secret that people of color get lower treatment standards than their non melanated counterparts, even on full coverage through an employer plan. It is also no secret that a lot of the low income families using SoonerCare are people of color. It should not be an action item of the OHA to kick those families while their down.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Having coverage is a small peace of mind for those families as they're already struggling to pay basic utilities and keep a roof over their heads. Taking away healthcare with this catch 22 of working hours is only going to compound that stress and lead them further into debt. Please keep in mind that you are in a better place than most, economy wise. Do not push those already struggling further into the poverty hole.	
8/10/2018	Linda	Please do not cut Sonner Care, Medicaid, for the families of Oklahoma. This is a much needed program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Heather	I have known people who depend on sooner care through my work with a local food resource center. To take away vital programs hurts the most vulnerable of our citizens. Please do not pass this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Amanda	We need to be expanding Medicaid not making it harder to access. We need to take steps to be a healthier state. Health care is too expensive for most families whether they work or not. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. Let's raise taxes on oil and gas and have more services and access to health care for all.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Seth	Access to healthcare should be a basic human right in our modern society. Do the right thing for the people of this state	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Shari	We have to take care of children and the elderly! Some have no families to help them or take them in. Some families are worthless! The ones in nursing homes especially deserve better. I'm ashamed to live in Oklahoma at this time!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Daniele	What about those employers that are already doing this by giving employees less hours so they don't have to provide insurance? What about the fact that Mary Fallon opted out of the availability of Obama Care Insurance for those that don't have children and either don't have insurance through their job or because they can't work or get disability? Fallon is not for Oklahomans, she is for making money and doing what benefits her.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Darrel	Please carefully consider the proposed changes and the effects that implementing these could have on the folks(and the children) covered by SoonerCare. My fear is that the rush to 'fix' a problem that statistically doesn't statistically exist(or at least hasn't been shown to us) will	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		only cause people who need this safety net program to lose what coverage SoonerCare does provide. Thank you.	your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Betsy	Adding additional requirements and hardships for Oklahoma's low income and poor in our state will hurt Oklahoma families and children. We have a high number of single mothers in our state that rely on sooner care in order to keep their children healthy adding such hardships of them is unconscionable. Further, are chips on parents who are now legal guardians of their grandchildren due to their children being addicted to opioids now have to provide healthcare to their grandchildren. Sooner care is what helps these grandparents survive these economic times. The government has been added ACA and now we want to kick were the families and children off of healthcare. Our state is showing a very poor record as far as educating children and keeping them healthy, why do we want to stay in the bottom percentage of states.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Robert	The people in the state are better off when all are healthy. There are not enough adequately-paying jobs, for those who are able to find the work required by the new law. If you are going to demand work, create some meaningful work and hire these people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Desjean	Healthcare is a daunting issue for everyone. The cost continues to rise so that fewer citizens can even afford it even if they are working. Many employers cannot afford to offer it. THIS proposal will hurt our citizens. Is it a better option for them to stop working and receive SoonerCare? Of course not. Raise the income levels for eligibility. But do not pass this measure.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Shantel	We Must Protect the most vulnerable in this state. Do what is right not what is more profitable. Health is a right off all not just the rich.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Velina	Please reconsider this bill and the effect it will have on Oklahoma families who are already struggling with rising health care cost and poverty.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Ronald	Protect healthcare for the people who need it the most. When employers won't give enough hours then make them work random hours they make it impossible to work a second job if you can even find something or get training or attend class and now the public servants want to restrict or remove healthcare from people who can't work enough hours?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/10/2018	Misty	I wanted to note my disapproval of the working hours required for SoonerCare. I understand the principle that is being presented, that people should not be given	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		“handouts” without some proof that they are working to better their situations but, frankly I feel it is not a viable solution in many areas of Oklahoma. From personal experience, I know that the expenses related to keeping a job such as fuel and child care services, can completely negate the income earned from many of the jobs low income workers can hold. Some rural parents might have to drive more than twenty miles, one way, to get to a job which may only pay them a pittance over their travel expenses, even though on paper they now longer qualify for SoonerCare due to too-high an income. And, on top of transportation costs, they will also have to obtain childcare which may also add to their monthly expenses. Please consider Oklahoma families who need help rather than participating in a one-size-fits-all program that punishes the rural population yet again for calling a poor, isolated place “home”.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/12/2018	TYP in Novlw	I have a 40 year old intellectually disabled son who lives at home and requires 24 hour supervision. For a year he attended a work activity center for disabled adults and regressed horribly. He began having serious panic attacks, began soiling his underwear and crying. I think it is absurd to force someone with a vocabulary of 5 words to work 20 hours a week. Oklahoma does such a poor job of responding to the needs of vulnerable individuals.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Susan	People can't work if they're not healthy. This affects the poorest people in the state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Camille	The Medicaid Waiver Proposal is harmful to struggling Oklahomans. Healthcare should not be a privilege for only those who are able to successfully navigate the rules and regulations of insurance. Sooner care was put in place to help people; please allow it to continue to do so.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Barbara	So many single parents with minimum wage jobs cannot make enough money to pay for health care. Most can barely pay rent, car insurance, gas for work and pay utilities. Most low income never get to visit a dentist. Please let the qualified keep their insurance. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Hermorene	I work in a pharmacy and I am a mother. When I was pregnant with my daughter, I was told that my income was too high to qualify me for SoonerCare. I had health insurance through my job, but it was a high deductible plan. As a result of these conditions, I was required to pay my OBGYN the full cost of my prenatal care (including delivery) before my due date. I had to make payments of \$500+ per month to meet this deadline. I lost my car	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		during this time because I had to choose between making my car payment or my payment to my OB. My car was needed to get me to my appointments and to work daily. The fees that I paid my OB did not include the cost of the hospital, necessary newborn labs, or the anesthesiologist. My daughter will be 5 years old in December and I am still making payments to the hospital for her delivery. Does this make sense to you? So, how does it make sense to require parents of Medicaid recipients to work a job that may disqualify them for the healthcare that their children need? Do I believe that people should work? Yes, I do. Do I believe that a low wage job should disqualify you for quality healthcare? No, I do not. If \$14.50 is the hourly wage required to afford a 2 bedroom apartment in Oklahoma, help me understand how \$9 per hour can disqualify you for healthcare. Please do not accept this waiver. It will be detrimental to the health of our children in Oklahoma.	
8/14/2018	Taylor	This is a misplaced, politicized effort playing on prejudice and stereotyping to reduce the Medicaid budget. Speaking as a provider of mental health services, it will hurt vulnerable populations who already struggle to achieve basic needs. If our state truly cares about mental health (and the physical health) of its population, it will not enact this cruel policy change.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Debbie	I am a nurse who has worked with chronically ill children and their families for almost 40 years. Many of these families rely on SoonerCare to provide the care their child requires. Most of these families would love the opportunity to work outside the home in some capacity, to be productive, and contribute in some way. Although the work requirement being considered by OHCA likely will not impact many of the families I work with, I have seen the difficulty these families have had when they have tried to transition to commercial insurance coverage. Households with wage earners working at a minimum wage job do not make enough money to pay their basic living expenses, much less the costs associated with working outside the home such as clothing, transportation, and child care. Jobs that offer minimum wage but not a "living wage" is an issue in itself. Because the income limit to qualify for SoonerCare is so low, these families who find employment making minimum wage can now find that they no longer qualify for SoonerCare. It is a huge step between receiving public assistance and being in a position where you can independently afford to keep a roof over your head, put food on the table, pay for expenses associated with working and/or attending school (clothes, transportation, supplies), paying for child care, AND now the added expense of insurance co-pays and deductibles. Time and time again I have seen people have	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to make the choice between feeling proud of their contributions outside the home and the medical care their child needs. Our system is not set up to help people succeed. It is basically an "all or nothing" system where people have to make the choice between trying to be good role models for their children and create a better life for their families by working or receive the assistance they need to survive. The system needs to find ways to support those people that do want to work by continuing to offer assistance for the smaller component of health care such as offering assistance with the expenses associated with commercial insurance (co-pays and deductibles) and continuing to pay for expenses associated with working outside the home.	
8/14/2018	Shelly	I urge our Oklahoma leaders to protect Sooner Care. Health Care should be a priority, one for all Oklahomans. Cutting this program would be immoral. Oklahomans need to see that those, in charge of leading, care about all our people. My own family benefited from this program during a great loss and tragedy. My daughter, who had no insurance, was able to depend on Sooner Care during a high risk pregnancy and the loss of her unborn son. The expenses she would have faced, in addition to the emotional toll, would have put her in great debt. Not having the health care would have put her in great danger. You decision to cut this program or save it will speak of Oklahoma leadership values. Whom do you value? It should be all of us. Including the poor.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Debbie	Stop taking away from the elderly & children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Barbara	I strongly oppose the new Sooner Health care proposal. This will hurt many of Oklahona's Most vulnerable families.. sooner Care should be the best possible!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Jennifer	Please don't make it harder for Oklahomans to access medical care. It hurts all of us (even those of us with healthcare) and our economy when we have individuals who are unable to access the care they need. We cannot flourish as a state when we spend more on treatment and missed productivity than preventive care. Please save SoonerCare for the least of these among us.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Bruce	Sooner Care means supporting Oklahomans most in need of medical care. When I was young I delivered our local newspaper. One of my customers couldn't pay me for a couple of months.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		When I insisted she pay, although she was a grown woman she broke down in my arms. She explained her little boy had a disease that caused his liver to stop working. She couldn't afford his medicine any longer. As she spoke her son came into the living room. I'll never forget him. Jaundiced eyes and a swollen belly from his distended liver. He died not many months later. His mother was a bank teller. His father worked on a local dairy farm. These were good, hard working people who found themselves and their family in a terrible situation. A situation that would've been solved if there had been a SoonerCare program in 1964. Today many Oklahoma families are living with a similar situation. Oklahoma is not a poor state. We have the means to maintain this insurance program. Enough children have died due to poverty. We need this program. I urge you to maintain the SoonerCare program for Oklahoma families.	your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Angela	It is time for our state to stand up for working families and mothers. I urge you to not implement any new work restrictions on those using Medicaid. This is poor policy decision making that greatly affects the WORKING poor, or those thst are sole caretakers for dependent children that are disabled. We should be increasing access and affordability to healthcare, not restricting it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Sally	Stop denying the poor and working poor, quality health care!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Cathey	We owe our citizens and our children better.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Alain	This state already has some of the worst health and mental help in the country and many many people are not doing well. And this states leaders are planning on making it even harder on them?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Kristin	Stop taking funding from places it's needed. Not actually just needed but sincerely required for some of us to live!! I was disabled at 24 years old. The health care restrictions from the state of OK don't allow me access to Medicare at all. Why? I worked, went to college, paid bills & taxes, and then I happened to get very hurt at a young age. People think little of me based on the category of human you put me in due to my inability to work. I'm only one of thousands. My quality of life is the lowest because as a	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		disabled member of Oklahoman society I can only access soonercare/Medicaid. Don't take away what little coverage I have. It will cause the suicide rate to rise yet again because there's no funding for mental health needs... Remember, you cut them? You're killing people for a bottom dollar. That makes you a criminal in my book & all your advisers, especially lobbyists waving their checkbooks that have no idea what life is like for someone like me... You're all guilty of hurting people & you've shown us all repeatedly that you're okay with doing so. The world is bad enough. Why are you making America worse like our POTUS? Rome is falling. Read your history & see what happens when a small group that declare themselves in charge rob from the poor. It doesn't bode well for those stealing money. We outnumber you & we're not afraid, we're angry & filled with rage.... And for very good reasons! You've taken enough, it's time you give back during your last few months in office. Then you tell whomever fills your shoes to do right by funding the people of OK for health care and education, for once. Right now you're going to be known as the governor that took food, education, & healthcare from people to overcrowd private prisons & redecorate the capitol building. Not exactly a good legacy you're leaving. Shame on all of you rich Republicans & Democrats, and any & every other party that supports keeping us sick & poor from ever getting better. You're just ensuring the state will have to pay for more of us. Don't be careless with our state's money, just put it where you promised it would go. Do right by the people just once. If you can come up with a "slush fund" then put where it's supposed to go to make Oklahoma great again.	
8/14/2018	Eden	Healthy people work. Take away their health care and they not only won't be able to work, they will end up more dependent on the system.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Debbie	This proposal creates a catch 22 for parents. If they work the hours needed to stay on sooner care, they'll earn too much to qualify for sooner care. Without other healthcare options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, and will not have access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This is not just bad for parents, it's bad for children as well as for the whole state of Oklahoma. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Brandy	So many people will die without this coverage. Many children and vulnerable people will be negatively impacted by this. Please don't end soonercare for vulnerable people who were born with a disorder that debilitates them!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Candace	Refusing medical care to people will not make them work harder or better. This proposal is nonsense. A healthy population is a productive population.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Rebecca	I do not support the Medicaid Waiver Proposal. It will hurt families in Oklahoma who desperately need Medicaid. The proposal is bad for Oklahomans.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Lacey	I wouldn't have survived my childhood or teenager years without soonercare. It is a need for so me. Please.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Sarah	My disability is on appeal and last week I was kicked off of SoonerCare because my 18 y/o son moved into a dorm. Now I can't get my meds. I can't see a doc. I can't have surgery on my back for degenerative disc disease. Thanks a lot Oklahoma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Vicky	Are you people just stupid? Is it that hard to figure out people need help and all you do is give them a loose loose. Does Oklahoma just strive to be the worst state in everything intentionally???? You live in s bubble if you can't understand what you're doing!!!! I hope you can look yourseyin the mirror. You're job is to help the people not screw them but I don't think you know how to help. Please read what you're doing and think please, please. We the people pay y'all. Try listening too!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Linda	Leave soonersare alone.These proposed changes will hurt those who can least afford it.If the state needs to save money,get rid of the corrupt politicians,and you wont need to hurt the poor to accomodate the rich.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Lorrie	The healthcare is suppose to help families in need. Please don't change the rules of healthcare for families that really need it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Lezzi	Please do not strip away health coverage for our most vulnerable citizens. SoonerCare is such a blessing for those with health issues, especially those with mental llnesses and chronic health problems. It is noble to want to encourage our citizens to seek and maintain gainful	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		employment but this is not the way. It is punitive and will almost certainly penalize innocent citizens who have irregular employment or who cannot successfully navigate the system for reporting, and is unlikely to do anything to improve our great state.	your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Mohamed	I am a medical student who is a father and a husband. As a medical student I am unable to work and I can not afford private insurance. My wife works minimal hours to care for our home as I am gone most of the time. Sooner care provides me the coverage I need to avoid spending thousands to keep food on the table with no income and student loans. It also gives me a piece of mind when I need healthcare so I do not have to miss school. Soon I will be graduating and working as a physician which means I will be able to get off sooner care and provide care to people whom I was once in their shoes. In order to get there I must stay healthy and able to provide for my family by not spending thousands on healthcare	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Melissa	Medicaid is not a luxury for those who are unable to work or have difficulty finding work. It is a necessity. There are many parents whose children suffer from mental and physical disabilities. These parents often have difficulty finding or keeping a job that is understanding of these parents' situations. They lose jobs due to excessive absenteeism because their children's needs don't allow them to work. These parents' health is vital to the well being of their children. Please consider this before you penalize these families. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Jennifer	We actually CARE about our Oklahomans here! We CARE about ending the unnecessary suffering due to already not enough health care coverage. How dare you even consider taking away coverage already provided. This means more dying and low quality of lives here in our great state! This trickles down and affects us all!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Veronica	Please do not cut soonercare for those who cannot fulfill the work hours required. There must be a better way.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Nancy	Oklahoma has systematically eliminated support to the most vulnerable and deserving of our state. You are proposing to cut services to hard-working people who have family members with catastrophic and/or debilitating health problems, including babies with birth defects requiring extensive physical therapy. This is unconscionable. Shame on you and shame on Oklahoma!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/14/2018	Kate	The work requirement to be and stay on medicaid is cruel to vulnerable families, individuals with disabilities, and likely impact veterans/ military families in their ability to receive quality healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		It's bad enough we have one of the highest poverty rates in the nation, please don't make it worse by forcing people off medicaid because of a work requirement. People who get sick or don't get preventative services become more dependent on other social programs, are unable to work and pay taxes, and their care costs more when it's delayed or denied early on. Please remove the work requirement for all Oklahoman on medicaid. We need to focus on a different solution to help lift people out of poverty and messing with healthcare isn't it.	your comments under advisement.
8/15/2018	David	Imposing such a work requirement upon Oklahoma's most vulnerable families is punitive at best and fundamentally inhumane at worst. Anybody that has experienced what it means to be working-poor in Oklahoma knows that dealing with such stringent bureaucratic red-tape will bar families, even those holding multiple jobs and working over 40-hour weeks, from accessing the benefits that they use to top-off their interminably meager wages. This is a veiled attempt by Oklahoma's business elite and their Republican lapdogs to pull back public assistance for Oklahoma's poor and weaken resistance to their strangling policies of economic austerity. This needs to stop.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Barbara	This proposal will negatively effect an already disproportionately disadvantaged person. Working requirements for a person who is unable to work will not make them find work. This is literally just a threatening way to inspire a person to work. Why not find ways of eliminating the life restrictions that prevents them from work. Child care isn't cheap, why not subsidize this for single parents. Transportation can be a problem, improvements in rural communities to subsidize a transportation program may help people who cannot afford their own car. Lets be a state that recognizes that there are barriers to employment and will work to remove those barriers.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Jessica	I would rather my tax money be used to help people and not wasted on paperwork to monitor and make help more inaccessible. It is a waste of resources and makes a difficult situation more difficult for those less fortunate. It won't save any money and will only punish poor people for being poor. Where are those Christian values that I thought my state stood for?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Ellen	Please realize that what you propose can be a catch 22 type situation. A person needing health care who works the hours necessary to qualify could also be unqualified because of earning too much. So in the end still no affordable health care. Please reconsider your approach and do the math necessary to know if this works. Thank you.	
8/16/2018	Robin	This whole idea of forcing sick and disabled people to rise up out of their beds to work is not only ludicris but	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		blatently cruel. The people who can work are already doing so. So what you are saying is someone in a vegetative state will lose health care because they can't hold down a job. What has this state come to. For a group of people who like to your their "Christianity" this is nothing but evil.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	John	This State should be ashamed for considering this. First we have a horrible Governor who refuses federal funding, limiting poor people qualifying, now it's being considered to make people work to qualify. If passed it will prove how inconsiderate, in-Christian like the policy makers are. Do not do this. Elections are coming and, I for one am dedicated to draining the Oklahoma swamp.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Christina	Please do not punish our poor people of Oklahoma by putting work requirements on them to qualify for Medicaid! We are better than this! Many are sick and unable to work, many have family or children that are sick and they are caring for them and unable to work! Many already work as much as they can. It's cruel and mean spirited to force sick people on Medicaid to work! Why didn't our Governor expand Medicaid? Hurting our citizen's by taking away their healthcare is unacceptable! Don't do it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Alex	The proposed work requirements for Soonercare will cause more harm than good. If you want people to work more, stop cutting them down by taking away their affordable Healthcare options. Oklahoma's government is the embarrassment of the developed world. Please don't let these ill-begot requirements add fuel to that fire. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Anne	Please heed these pleas for continued coverage by Soonercare. As a retired Speech-Language Pathologist in the State of Oklahoma, I can attest first hand to the importance of this coverage. We, in Oklahoma, fall short so many times in protecting the most vulnerable among us. Let's not continue this downward spiral. Our children, elderly, disabled, and families living in poverty need this important health coverage. I ask that you not implement this new plan. It will only hurt those most in need. We are better than this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Ava	OK's Medicaid work requirements on Oklahomans would put a further strain on our state and it's residents. Healthcare should be a right for all Oklahomans, not a luxury. We are better than that. Our standards must be higher, and that begins with improving lives by putting affordable, accessible healthcare for all first. Healthcare should NOT be a money-making business. I am OPPOSED to work requirements for Medicaid patients.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Ryan	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		health coverage. Yes, considering many of my patients as a resident physician in internal medicine rely on SoonerCare for medications, diagnostic testing, and screenings . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Joe	There is a certain human dignity with helping to provide for oneself and one's family. Also, lest we forget, this example helps to teach the next generation it should be responsible to provide for itself. So some folks need help for a while. No problem. But they need to be encouraged to contribute - a little bit at first and more as they progress up the economic chain. America remains the Land of Opportunity - but if you do not focus on that, the naysayers will beat you down and drown you. Negative options should be taken out of this struggle. This idea of taking away more help than partial employment earns is a dead end. Further, it is a manipulative methodology to keep a certain portion of our people more destitute and dependent than they would otherwise be. Why work if you are going to lose more by working than you would have if you do not work? In and amongst the search for a solution to this problem, there should be a provision for the graduated removal of public help, vice the notion of taking it all away merely because someone is trying to help themselves.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	David	Ladies and Gentlemen, Aside from the inhumanity of keeping people from healthcare, your plan to further restrict Medicaid won't save our community one thin dime. People without coverage will still seek care and if they're uninsured, their costs will be transferred to those lucky enough to still be able to afford health insurance. You are cost shifting to the people you are supposed to be serving, hurting people that might be treated early and successfully and all for what? You should be looking for ways to provide universal health care in Oklahoma and if you want to minimize costs to the taxpayer and the companies that pay a good deal of health insurance costs for employees, take a close look at the healthcare industry for over-charges, inflated salaries and profits in some cases that border on obscene.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Marie	This is a terribly cruel plan which will harm people in need. Oklahoman claims to be made of Christians but this is not a Christ like plan. Have some compassion for those in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/16/2018	Susan	Soonercare means not just quality of life, but life or death to so many Oklahomans. We must take advantage of every bit of federal help we can get, expanding Medicare rather than shrinking. We know Oklahomans suffer poorer health than the rest of the country already. This is unacceptable. We have seen how rejecting the money has hurt people in our state. Now is the time to fix this!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Juliette	I do not know where my family would be without Soonercare. My husband and I both work, he does not have insurance and I get it through work. It would cost me \$600 a month to add my kids to my work insurance, and we could not afford that. The only other option is for my children to go without health insurance. Health care is a necessity for children. Because of Soonercare my children can be up-to-date on their pediatric visits and stay healthy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Naomi	It's enough for struggling families to worry about how they're going to feed their families. They shouldn't have to worry about how they're going to stay alive.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Sheila	Oklahoma is already known as one of the worst states in the Union to children. If they were not born into family with cold hard cash then the legislature makes things as hard for them as they possibly can. Stop hurting our children. PLEASE do not take their healthcare away from them. It's inhuman.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Ruth	Please don't put parents through the work requirement hurdles to qualify for Soonercare! I have been a parent cobbling together part-time jobs and struggling to care for my child and find adequate child care when I was working. It is too likely there will be coverage gaps due to red tape glitches and employers who don't take family obligations into account when cutting workers' hours. The incentive is too complicated, and the red tape will erase any savings! I don't want any children to suffer gaps in care and I don't want my tax dollars to go for paper pushing instead of good preventive and maintenance care for the well-being of the next generation of Oklahomans.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Anonymous	As a provider that is caring for primarily the poor patients in Norman we are not in favor of this program. You are already cutting the numbers in our panel of Sooner Care Patients we are being paid to maintain medical home records for and now you want to waste taxpayer money to enforce these new rules when in fact it will cost more to enforce than it will save Sooner Care funds. Increase funding to pay providers and help those that need care at local clinics or there will be only emergency room care for the needy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Benjamin	This proposal punishes people for their poverty. By creating utterly unnecessary bureaucratic hurdles, it will	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		drive people off healthcare. And it will put many families in situations in which they literally cannot get access to healthcare; this rule would deny it to them if they don't work, but if they do they'll earn enough money that they no longer qualify for SoonerCare...but cannot afford to purchase health insurance on their own. But the victims here are not only the adults whose behavior the state hopes to control. It is also their children, who will also be deprived of care thanks to this rule. This cruel and senseless proposal is the wrong direction for our state to take. Impoverishing Oklahomans and robbing them of healthcare is no answer to anything.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Bernadette	Withdraw this proposal immediately. This will cause untold heartache to poor families. The poorest counties in this state are in rural areas where mass transportation is not an option and having a car is not feasible. How are they supposed to get to these jobs that are probably 30-50 miles one way to get to. Where are the state-certified day care facilities that are open after 6:00 pm until after midnight? The jobs these parents qualify for are not 9-5. This is a horrible idea that was not thought out in the least as to unintended consequences.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/16/2018	Beatriz	Health care is a right! We must protect the well being of all our citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Brian	Protect SoonerCare!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Suzanne	Oklahomans deserve Health Care!! They also deserve the information on this proposal and how it will impact their lives. This proposal will destroy families and individuals!! The proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Roselyn	There are some people who work but cannot afford insurance because pay is low and company insurance is expensive. Also some people must take care of children with problems or elderly relatives. Or some adults have problems which makes it hard for them to get a job. Insurance should be affordable to everyone.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Jamee	"An Oklahoman taking care of her children and elderly mother should not have to worry if she can afford a doctor when she's ill. A father with an irregular work schedule should not have to choose between a meal and his insulin."	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/20/2018	Rhonda	Please don't sign this into effect. Alot of us are single mothers who don't get 40+ hours a week. It just took me 3 weeks for job I'm currently working at,for 26 hours ☺ I have kids. I can go to work at nights & leave my 15 year old alone but then I'd end up having a grandbaby before time due to unsupervised child. I need the healthcare to work what ever hours I CAN get cause medically I can't stand on my feet anymore without pain pills. If I can't get medical for my feet & back, I dang sure can't work. Might as well put me down. Not all of us are blood suckers. Some of us are just poor,no matter how much we try. Now you want us to be unhealthy & totally a lame horse..? How sad a state would do this to mother's & children already fighting uphill battle.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Jan	This is a very short sighted plan and punishes the most vulnerable in our society. If there is a requirement for Oklahoma Medicaid recipients to work more than they're working now, they risk making too much to even qualify for the program. They don't get the money The program pays. The doctors and hospitals do. So this is not a scam to get more money by undeserving people. The last thing for state needs is another program that has to be administered. It's likely the cost of the administration would be more then could possibly be saved by the supposedly undeserving Who qualify for this program. Don't implement it. It's a bad idea based on false assumptions.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Darla	Please save Soonercare and help to expand the Medicaid expansion. When people are ill or in bad health and cannot work, it can save lives. Our health should not be up for negotiation. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Chadwick	The following is my elaboration on my comments at the Medicaid Comment session in Norman, but first I recommend that the email address be included on the handout at these comment sessions. I am opposed to the work requirement for Medicaid in Oklahoma because I perceive from my readings that the program is sold to other legislators as a way to reduce the roles of people on a Medicaid program by any name. This program is being sold to the public as a policy to help able body people to work and improve their lives. This deception makes this a deplorable scam. The criticisms of the plans in affect are the jobs provided were piece meal jobs with random hours and not available always in 20 hours a week. This would cause a larger amount of hours in other weeks to meet the 80 hours per month. Some of the people had other commitments that would interfere with working more than 20 hours per week. There were problems with providing adequate transportation.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		If the program is truly run, it would increase the cost of providing Medicaid. However, if the program is poorly run, the work requirement will forced people to drop out. Then the program reduces the cost of both supplying Medicaid to these people plus the administration costs of the work program are reduced. Arkansas started this program in June and the initial costs are large but as predicted by available evidence, a large number of the people on the Medicaid program are in trouble of being deleted. This can be easily documented by a simple internet search. Here is the one I am quoting from: http://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/401975-new-data-shows-arkansas-medicaid-work-requirements-could-cost-thousands	
8/20/2018	Christy	I'm severely disabled can't work I need Medicaid An so does my child I can't afford health insurance	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Carissa	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Peggy	Please do not make "work requirements" a condition of receiving healthcare (aka: Medicaid). Oklahoma continues to penalize the mass of poverty-stricken people in our state. We currently rank 48th as the poorest state in the country. Spend the money you would have used to implement this draconian move into pulling people up - not dragging them lower! You should be ashamed. I have lived here 72 years and have never been so embarrassed to say I am from Oklahoma!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Virginia	Please consider having some compassion for the people who have or need Sooner Care. What if it were YOU. We do not want to stop caring for those less fortunate!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Betty	Please as our law makers of Oklahoma are proposing changes to the Sooner Care Programs consider the families this will affect. School children, disable people who only	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		receive health care from this program will surely go without the care they need if you change it. Please consider how this will hurt those in need. Just don't mess with it leave it alone.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Jordan	Ridiculous! If people can work, they already are - even if they're still on Medicaid because they're paid poverty wages. Are we going to force severely ill people to work themselves to death? Children? Retired elderly? It's inhumane.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Maggie	As a worker in Mental Health for the state of Oklahoma, I am appalled at the lack of knowledge and empathy on the part of the state and it's population. Many of our people cannot work due to illness mental or physical and to place such idiotic restrictions shows a lack of foresight or just plain greed. I'm afraid based on the behavior of our Red leaning state, it is the later. We need to actually take care of our people and get them back to standing on their own instead of taking their crutches away and forcing them to walk. Our state budget is under funded all over and mental health suffers the most. Our state refuses to acknowledge the dire need of our mentally ill, and now it refuses to help the sick almost entirely. This greed and madness must end! I hope that our health care authority will see reason and decide that this might not be the best way to help our people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Cynthia	This waiver will cost the state far more than it will save. Furthermore, it will increase the ranks of the uninsured and therefore uncompensated emergency room costs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Joan	Anything that you do, or pass that takes access to healthcare away from innocent children is wrong, disgusting and does not have the best interest of anyone at heart. Stop it, NOW!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Cary	Don't take away health care from thousands of people, most of whom are children. Oklahoma politicians are fond of saying that "children are our future." Prove it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Nick	This is bad policy that harms families. Punishing children and families because of a parent's work situation is unproductive. "Saving" money on the backs of families is wrong and not the purpose of these programs or how we help families succeed. If this system needs reformed, we should do it in a way that helps families keep access to health care, not take it away. Please withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/20/2018	Craig	I am a retired school counselor and this is the only health care these kids have. To take it away is sinful. A govt. that will charge BIG OIL on 2% tax on a barrel of oil, and refuse to return it to 7%, need s to be replaced!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Alice	Please reject the Oklahoma Medicaid work requirements proposal because it would hurt our state and its residents. Here are some reasons why: Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them. For these reasons, the Oklahoma Medicaid work requirement proposal must be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Diana	I live with my daughter and family now. I would rather end my life than be a terrible burden to them. Oklahoma must go all out to accept the federal Medicaid moneys that we have all paid for through our taxes while working all our lives!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/20/2018	Sharon	I'm very concerned that proposed changes in the state's Medicaid program will leave many people with zero health care. Case in point: I have a friend who is a single mother	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		with one son, has full custody of her nephew because of drug addition by his biological parents and is guardian of her older sister who is mentally challenged. She pays for medical insurance for herself. If she loses Sooner care for those for whom she is responsible, the whole family will suffer greatly. There must be a better way to continue to provide health care for Oklahoma's most vulnerable: our youth, disabled and elderly. We as a state can do better than this! Thank you for allowing me to express my opinion.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Brandy Tillman	I am worried about a couple of groups of people. Those people who are trying to get disability but have not yet been approved as they are unable to work for a myriad of reasons. Also, I am worried about those parents, particularly single parents, who have a child with significant physical and/or developmental health care needs and therefore their child needs them all the time regardless of the child's age. I worry these groups will fall through the cracks and lose their Sooner care which would be a grave injustice!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Carol	Stop making your job all about taking healthcare needs from Oklahomans. You should be helping Oklahoma families, not punishing them. Shame.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Stephanie	There are so many families that really need Medicare. Please don't make it impossible for them to work and care for their families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Steve	At this time my wife is in a skilled nursing facility and I am a dialysis patient We are both on Social Security and because our combined incomes is too high she does not qualify for state medicaid. We may soon be facing medical expenses that we can not afford. She needs assistance now and the system needs to provide help to ALL who need it Instead of making it harder to qualify they need to make it easier for those in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Deanna	Parents of young children and care givers must not be required to leave their charges for a job. Even school age children need day care after school and in the summer. Also many disabled people are not receiving Social Security and are not able to work. The work requirement for Medicaid will cost more to administer than will be saved, and low-income people will flood the emergency rooms again.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Noreen	Do not take away the little healthcare we have for people. If you politicians can afford your luxuries from our taxes, THEN NECESSITIES can be afforded for everyone. And if the sick & disabled can work, politicians can too, WHY	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		SHOULD THEY GET SOCIALIZED INCOME IF THEY AREN'T DOING THEIR JOB? IF YOU REALLY LOVE YOUR COUNTRY, get a 2nd job like the rest of us taxpayers DO WHO FUND YOUR INCOME, instead of living off of SOCIALIZED INCOME WE MOSTLY PAY FOR YOU. Then conveniently say you cannot work out a budget for taxpayers & struggling ELDERLY citizens,VETERANS OR those who have suddenly acquired a terminal illness, or disability. ***IF OTHER SMALLER POORER COUNTRIES CAN BUDGET TO INCLUDE THE PEOPLE WHO PAY THE GOVT. THAN SURELY THE "GREAT" AMERICA AND THE BIG OIL, BIG CORP. STATES, LIKE OKLAHOMA, CAN AFFORD IT. ***AMERICA PAYS 10 Times more than ANY OTHER country spends into Military funds, & of that, a lot is wasted. If we cut that in half, spent it on healthcare/ne cessities, we would still be spending way more than any other country on Military. BUT WE CANT Even AFFORD MEDICAL CARE FOR OUR CHILDREN, SINGLE MOTHERS, ELDERLY, THE VETERANS WHO FIGHT OUR WARS. IT IS UNACCEPTABLE for the way our present governing Body, and Oklahoma have MISUSED AND CANNOT FIGURE OUT How to properly STAY WITHIN A budget, PRIORITIZE WISELY & SIMPLY do the job we pay them for, but IS AMAZING HOW YOU they can waste money on themselves & THEIR BIG CORP. FRIENDS & UNIMPORTANT LUXURIES. (OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR & PRESENT POLITICIANS IN OFFICE. YOU ARE DOING A TERRIBLE JOB FOR TAXPAYERS. OKLAHOMA WAS ONE OF LOWEST PAYING STATES IN 1980, when I moved HERE, FOR TEACHERS AND MOST OTHER JOBS, AND GOVT WAS CORRUPT then. Sadly OKLAHOMA HASNT CHANGED. UP NORTH, WHERE I MOVED FROM, AND MANY OTHER STATES, SUCH AS TEXAS, ETC., TEACHERS (POLICE, AS WELL, OTHER IMPORTANT DEGREED & CERTIFIED JOBS) GOT PAID & RETIRED AT MORE THAN TWICE WHAT OKLAHOMA DOES. WE ARE VOTING TO CHA NGE IT. THIS WHOLE ADMINISTRATION IS SO CORRUPT.) THERE IS NO EXCUSE FOR people not to be able to afford housing, or healthcare or the health insurance on minimum wage or even the middle class wages OKLAHOMA PAYS & Health COVERAGE OKLAHOMA OFFERS. ALSO NO EXCUSE FOR CONDITIONS TO GET TO THIS LEVEL IN OKLAHOMA, A RICH OIL STATE THAT CANNOT, WILL NOT GIVE BACK TO IT'S OWN PEOPLE, ONLY TAKE.	your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Linzi	Please support family health in Oklahoma. Our state is struggling economically and people have to work times	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		harder to support themselves already. Don't reduce them to even harder circumstances when they're ill.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Judith	I implore you to withdraw this proposal. Oklahoma can be so much better than we are to our children and struggling parents! Until there is a Medicare for all plan, we MUST not remove coverage for parents and, like my daughter, that are single parents working full time with 2 children and will lose coverage. At barely above min. wage., she cannot support her family with rent, food and vehicle as it is. Having to pay medical care would mean she would become homeless and or worse, child not treated. She lives with this fear daily. Please do not proceed with this proposal that will only drive our most needy to a lower level of poverty!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Barbara	You will put children at risk without proper health care. Many cannot afford health insurance or dr. Visits for their children	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Barbara	This is not the way to help people as a 70 yr old disabled person no one will employ me. Many others are like me. This is not way to others get back to work adding stress will not help people get well and heal. Let's give a pay cut to elected people and find the budget that way	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Diane	When you look at the numbers of those who are are not excluded from the work requirement due to things like disability, age, pregnancy, etc. there are only about 6,000 Sooner Care recipients who this would apply to. Doing the math that is less than 1% of the total SoonerCare recipients. The cost of implementing this program would surely not be worth the savings gained by monitoring the few who "may" be taking advantage of the system.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Mireille	I am requesting you consider your towards keeping the health insurance for poverty level families as it is. To put more stress on their lives will be more of a burden on our hospitals and doctors , not to mention on the people themselves. The level of income cannot be any lower.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Margaret	We need to support those people who are trying their best to make on the small income they get. When a medical condition arises there is little help/hope for them. We need more medicaid and not less. The private sector can do only so much.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/20108	Laura	I do not think that adding work requirements to Medicaid is a food move. It will disproportionately hurt those folks who are already working and trying to make ends meet.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Alexander	if anything, Medicaid should be expanded to ensure ALL Oklahoman's have access to some, SOME, type of medical care. This is my state, these are my people, and how DARE we even think of putting legislation like this on the table. OKLAHOMAN'S DESERVE TO VOTE ON SUCH A PRESSING MATTER AND NOT HAVE THIS TYPE OF LEGISLATION THOUGHT OF AND EXECUTED WITHOUT BY PEOPLE WHO DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT OKLAHOMANS NEED!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Rebecca	Anything that impacts parents health and well-being and stress level will also affect their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Mary	Please do not allow these changes to SoonerCare/Medicaid. It will harm the people who need it most.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Veronica	Do what is right for Oklahoma's poor children. Enough of giving big business tax breaks and then ignoring our poor. As a tax paying citizens, your actions will be remembered in November!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Jean	The proposed change is both cruel and counter productive. I can't imagine the benefit of cutting health care benefits for poor families, working or not. Raising the number of hours a person needs to work to qualify to the point that he or she no longer qualifies for Sooner Care is Machiavellian! Also, this change will increase oversight costs while decreasing benefit to those needing care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Carolyn	please do not take sooner care and medicaid help..that is the only help that poor white people have my mother would not even have her insulin if not for medicaid..right now my daughter is veryvery ill and so far medicaid will not help her, she is unable to work, had breast cancer and now severe diabetes she has got to have help..please help her and so many like her I beg you..and so many children will have no healthcare if you take sooner care...please protect sooner care and medicaid.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/22/2018	Denilyn S Jordan	This waiver appears to be punitive to the disabled people in our state. Also, the administrative costs to monitor the program puts an unnecessary burden on the taxpayers of Oklahoma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/22/2018	Jordan Bracht	This proposal to implement work or community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. This reduction in stability of health care coverage will lead to more social problems in our state as a whole. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This proposal should be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Luel	Do not go through with the work requirements proposal. You will be making bad situations worse.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Libby	People need help with their medical coverage. If they are sick they can't work anyway. This state needs to start looking at the needs of their people. I for one am sick of the greed that is ultimately killing our state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Heather	Please keep Medicaid intact and protect our most vulnerable citizens. Medicaid saves lives! Expand it and don't cut it or cripple it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Cheryl	I'm asking that you not to cut Medicaid (Soonercare) I have family members that both work full time and they have a very hard time making it month to month without help. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Kenneth	Why do you wish to make Oklahoma even more difficult to live in. People need Sooner Care. Children will die without it. Have you no decency or compassion?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Theresa	I am a retired school counselor and our community needs healthcare. We are small and there is not a lot of available jobs. Our children, adults and elderly need health care!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Cindy	I'm against the bill. Please do not let our most vulnerable people suffer even more.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Dianne	Let's take care of citizens in Oklahoma that need healthcare. The proposal seems to be too restrictive. We want to encourage folks to work not cause them to quit just so they can have healthcare. Let's be sensible.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Heather	Why are you punishing the most vulnerable citizens of Oklahoma? The majority of people don't work because they are physically unable or are caring for children or the elderly. DO NOT DEPRIVE THEM OF SOONERCARE!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Kay	Are there any MORE ways to penalize people living on the margins? They stand to lose their social security income if they work and if they don't work they won't get medical coverage. They have to choose between money to live on or medical care. Either way the poorest of Oklahoma lose. The Governor and Oklahoma lawmakers are seeking to divert attention from their own ineptitude and mismanagement of the State's resources and are using the poor as convenient scapegoats. This plan is heartless and cruel.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Marilyn	Once again, penalizing the sick and poor for being sick and poor. Another greedy, self serving political decision by the GOP to find money to line their pockets rather than PROTECTING their constituents, which is what they are elected to do. Mary Fallin, the WORST Governor in our country! A perfect example of what NOT to become as a human being. A total embarrassment!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/23/2018	Alice	This is discriminatory and will not work. NO to 1292. From personal experience with a son who was disabled, he COULD NOT WORK. If he got a job, he would not last. This bill is so bad, it is just mean and harmful.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Mark	Citizens must be healthy to be productive. Unproductive citizens will be a burden on society in many ways. Please do the smart thing, the humanitarian thing and do not doom these people to a life of sickness and poverty!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Mercedes	Please reconsider this adoption to our state. Our stats is in so much distress as it is. this effects working families as well as our senior citizens. As a Social Worker, I see first hand how difficult it is four aging population to get what they need. Under this new requirement, it will make our senior population, who are "abled bodied" have to work or volunteer. I do believe we should encourage citizens to work, but what about these	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		"abled bodied" individuals/seniors who can't work because they are the sole care givers for their loved one?! What about transportation or daycare barriers? if one is working more to meet this requirement for healthcare, wont they also be emptying their pocket book for daycare and transportation, aswell as spending less time with family? This creates more stress and mental health issues for our loved ones. Studies have shown that when people feel good (good health) then they have better turn outs for work involvement! Therefore, we should be eager to provide healthcare 1st. Lastly, society has us veiwing those on the "system" as lazy and need to get jobs. This is false information. Many people receiving services are working! They may not have the best transportation, education, or job opprotunities that others do, but this does not make them any less important then you or I! Please be kind to one another amd provide help up, not help down.	
8/27/2018	Andrea	Do not make Oklahomans caring for children, elderly, and/or sick relatives do more than they do now re: working outside the home. Do not change the rules on them. This is cruel and in-Oklahoman.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Angela	The young ,weak and elderly I feel have taken the brunt of all cuts. I personally can not take any more. No one should have to suffer.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Julie	I am writing to ask you not to approve the Medicaid work requirements proposal. This proposal should be withdrawn, because it punishes people whose work is not remunerated. Health is a public issue—illness is not contained to an individual. It is in everyone’s best interest if all state residents are able to seek healthcare and treatment before it is urgent. Whether or not the person participates in the paid labor force has nothing to do with healthcare access. This proposal only hurts the state of Oklahoma, by ensuring that more people will not have health insurance. Please withdraw this proposal immediately.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Hugh	Oklahoma seeks to impose work or community service requirements on parents with incomes at or below 45% of the federal poverty level," which is no more than \$779 per month for a family of three. The state itself projects the vast majority of parents who would be impacted by this proposal directly are extremely low income, below 20% of poverty line or \$346 per month. Parents of children under 6 are exempt, but how [the exemption] process would actually happen isn't clear, and even more troubling is that the state asserts the proposal would have no impact on enrollment or spending, even	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		though it's clear they want to reduce enrollment. The State doesn't provide verification information and that is problematic from a transparency prospective. Hasn't this legislature, this Governor, and the State Medicaid Agency done enough already to harm poor Oklahomans without putting them in this Catch-22?	
8/27/2018	Tammy	stopping medicaid program would put millions out of medical insurance! like my son, most are disabled and only can work a few hours each week because medical or psychiatrically reasons. please vote to keep the medicaid/soonercare program!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Jo	The people who need to be on Soonercare or Medicaid are the very ones we should not be targeting for cuts. I can't even believe that it is a goal of some people. These people already live/survive on so little.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Nathan	The trend in value based healthcare is that the most under-resourced individuals are also the sickest and therefore the most expensive to the system. Since this move (while required at this point) is most likely to be unhelpful to the health and cost of the affected families, it is vital that the data on the chronic conditions of the affected individuals be released in an aggregate format to allow true valid estimates of cost to the system. In turn this would allow a rational adjustment to add an exception--3 or more chronic health conditions should exclude an individual from the new requirements. This is especially vital since the move is likely to be ineffective. Another way to think of this is--if this requirement were a medication and I were considering treatment options for one of my patients, I would be forced to recognize the poor quality of the evidence and therefore not prescribe it. It is unlikely to improve health of the affected persons and families. It may actually worsen it, leading to higher ER use and more avoidable cases of diabetic complications, advanced cancers and the myriad of negative effects on families and society at large that come from such late diagnoses in uninsured individuals. How can the hospitals be expected to pay for this late care? Please see the Kaiser foundation's literature review on the topic at https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-relationship-between-work-and-health-findings-from-a-literature-review/.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Edward	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Edward. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would force families to lose medical coverage. All people should be covered by medical insurance.	
8/27/2018	Carol	Repeal all the taxes on businesses that have been repealed. Businesses are doing fine and could hire qualified workers if Russian Party (formerly Republican party) hadn't found every way to go after sick, and other populations, that have been made at risk by other bad policies from Oklahoma elected officials. Another dumb self defeating plan.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Suzanne	The thought that individuals and families will be hurt by cuts and proposed changes in Sooner Care, breaks my heart. We must start putting the good of the people of Oklahoma before the almighty dollar. Work requirements may sound good on theory, but in practical application can contribute to less care for the ill. Please consider those impacted by your rulings as if they were family.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Cory	I am a health care provider. . . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This measure would put many of my already at-risk patients and clients in an increased struggle to maintain access to services necessary to their health and their families wellbeing. Many of my patients and clients already have working family members and all are actively participating in case-management services for their family unit in order to promote their ongoing growth and life-planning/goal-setting skills. Further challenging their ability to be eligible for coverage with stipulations or the potential catch-22 will only further challenge their ability to provide as parents and further escalate the health measures we are trying to lower in our community. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Virginia	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
8/27/2018	June	I hope that just because I am writing this letter does not mean you are taking my soonercare away. After all, I am way below poverty Due to an unfortunate head-on collision. My thoughts on you taking away sooner care of families who are Luckey enough to be able to work I can understand if they were bringing in 3,0000 or more every 2 weeks but for those I know who only bring in 700 a month or less I believe they should beable to keep sooner care as long as they are not recieving cash for kids from the state I am barly surviving on what I get in disability 770 a monthI find my self always having to pay 25 to 50 on the 333.99 electric bill due to I do squeeese at least 50 extra dollars if not more just to help cover the gap for when we get our food stamps and even then what we get is not enough for a month with 2 teens in the house If you think it is so easy to survive on what we get then I challenge you all to step in our shoes and lets see you survive on 770 a month now reme mber the money is to pay rent, gas, eletric,tv,cell phone or home phone or both , as well as gas for the month for you to go back and forth to work , renters insurance, vehicle insurance, medication cost sooner care wont cover, dr exspences sooner care dont cover and for Adults Dentist appointments and eye appointments as well as any glasses or dental procedure you may need and if you have kids there is daycare, clothing, school supplies, medications not covered or may require a co payment on lets not forget vehicle repares so we parents can get back and forth to work . Oh and also now our schools are charging kids if they are late to school or tarty to class or don't wear their name badges proper so you see you tell parents to work so they do and its a necessity to work due to we barely get help to survive the state makes it so hard for us parents to keep our own health up so we can care for our kids the only time we women are at our healthiest is when we are pregnant be cause it is then that we receive the best medical help. we get dental and vision then. the whole system is messed up and I feel it is because the ones putting the rules out there are probably fully covered with health coverage somewhere because they can afford it because they get paid a ton of money from the state each time they can kick some family off the sooner care service. I truly wonder how they sleep at night especially if that family became so depressed due to they were no longer allowed access to the medication or medical help that was keeping them alive and healthy. I truly understand that there is a budget you all may have to follow but I believe the families can all be better helped if the pay you all received was not the same amount as the amount of money sooner care used to cover a family of 4 for 3 years may be poor people and we may	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		seem to you all as stupid people for ending up in this situation but many if not all of us did not ask to be in this situation. unfortunately, some of us are victim scratch that survivors of domestic violence. we have been throwing some dark stuff that you would not be able to survive from and it is due to that medication is necessary to keep us from reliving the nightmare and then there are those of us like me who have been in a near-death auto accident and it is very necessary that we take our medications to help with pain management so we can care for our families so why would you take sooner care away from families who are doing the best they can to follow your rules (you say work they do and then you want to take away sooner care over a few extra hard-earned dollars that the families were told to get out and make) I have an Idea lets cut how much you make to compensate for the lack of funds that sooner care is needing after all we can only take so much of this back and forth from the government.	
8/27/2018	Charles	I am a student studying Public Health at the University of Central Oklahoma. I am also a resident of the Edmond community. Proposing these changes to add a work requirement for fundamental health services is a dangerous and reckless practice. This will affect the most vulnerable populations within our community. Those on SoonerCare who can work are already doing so. We must start to look at healthcare services as a right and not a privilege. I ask you to look at different avenues to start protecting people on SoonerCare. Here are a few options: Right to Work policies, and Additional Revenue Sources (Renewable Energy). There are too many people in our community at risk of losing access to healthcare. Please reconsider your position on adding a work requirement for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Ellen	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Many of my students and their families use SoonerCare. This would be a hardship for them.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. The same answer: My students and their families would be adversely affected.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would devastate families, especially those with small children at home.. My students are healthier because they have SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Rhonda	sooner care should be left as it is. Poor oklahoma families rely on sooner care!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Sue	I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Every person in Oklahoma deserves quality health care.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This is a life and death decision for many people who have circumstances beyond their control.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . My family has not been impacted. That does not mean that this issue should be important to every Oklahoman.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Sigrid	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. We need to EXPAND coverage not set up more hurdles and barriers. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. We need to EXPAND coverage not make it more difficult to qualify. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. We need to expand eligibility, not put more limits. Everyday, children in our community can go to the doctor, dentist or optometrist. Without SoonerCare they would have NO access.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Heather	I vote. Work requirements for Medicaid recipients are ridiculous. These are underemployed people who need a hand up. When I was a fulltime student, my children qualified for SoonerCare. By giving my family that help for those two years, I was able to finish PA school. I have long since paid the state back by paying higher taxes for the last twenty years. These proposed changes are unacceptable.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Sharon	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). I am in remission from a chronic kidney disease known as GPA.. I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. The requirement will not affect me, personally. But I expect low-income parents will be forced off Sooner Care due to	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		their inability to afford daycare while they work/volunteer at low-pay or no-pay jobs. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Please see the answer above.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. I already know couples who earn too much to qualify for the Affordable Care act but not enough to buy health insurance on their own. It's a terrible position to be in. This Sooner Care proposal is even worse because these families are already barely making it.. People can get dental care who otherwise could not afford it and children can get decent medical care that would not otherwise be available to them.	
8/27/2018	Tammy	please help save soonercare! my has autism and adhd and just started working at mcdonalds. he wont be able to continue working if he doesnt have his medication! i am counting on you to protect soonercare, medicare, and social security for all the disabled people who will not be able to live independently without this help!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Monte	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). no. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. you have to know their story. what about the very disabled children. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. it would be awful if children don't get health care.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. no one should be without hope and health. the need to have health problems taken care of when you have no money to cover the problemss.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Linda	The thought of what this would do to some is sickening. Man up, put your people first, better yet You and your family try being covered by this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Robert	The current eligibility system appears to have worked for the people the system serves. Adding additional requirements to a marginal population is cruel at best and diabolical at worst. The goal of SoonerCare is to serve the needful to allow them to have healthier lives. The work requirement in no way touches on this core goal. It will be counter productive to the goal to implement a work	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		requirement. Please consider abandoning this thought-up but not thought-through work requirement.	
8/27/2018	Darrin	I have a relative whom is disabled and receiving SoonerCare. Is this topic of "job" going to effect her? Other than maybe a clerical error.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Neva	I KNOW MANY WHO WILL DIE IF THEIR MEDS ARE TAKEN AWAY.. PLEASE DONT DO THIS ...ITS ABSOLUTELY CRIMINAL	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Linda	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). I have Arthritis and Auto-Immune Disease.. I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Requiring people to spend hours and days planning to get to scheduled visits to apply for non qualified work, fill out forms, sit in offices waiting for interviews that are a waste of their time and the interviewers time is non productive for everyone involved.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. The requirements would reduce the number of hours many Sooner Care recipients could be actively employed.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. When struggling workers are injured and do not have health care they are less able to be employed or retain any employment they have managed to get.. I have been able to use young women workers part-time who have small children when they are able to keep their kids healthy. When they have pregnancies they tend to try to continue employment if they can continue to be covered by SoonerCare. Otherwise they have to end employment to qualify for help.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Kyndall	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Alot of children could lose life saving medical care and prescriptions.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/27/2018	Amy	Please protect Medicaid for Oklahomans and do not require work requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Kelda	I am on SoonerCare (Medicaid). Not sure. I've had skin cancer in the past and need yearly dermatology screenings. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I support good faith reporting but worry that circumstances for others clearly shows need while not being able to meet requirements. My work and volunteer is an insane schedule! I farm, manage a non-profit, sit on various committees, none of which have pay stubs or time sheets. I don't understand how the currently underfunded dhs has time to wrap their head around hundreds of schedules like mine. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I need a surgery this fall which will make me unable to work while recovering. This proposal makes no sense, do I lose health care for follow up appointments and need to get private coverage because I'm unable to work for some weeks?? (even when planned! What if it can't be planned!?). I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Of course I want to earn more money and don't mind joining the less-subsidized coverage when able. But this proposal isn't a smooth bridge between the two, nor does it take into account seasonal work and highly unusual work schedules. It's been a relief for my daughter to have preventative care, even dental. Without it I would have likely lost use of an eye this summer, or be bankrupt from trying to pay cash for an awful emergency accident. SonnerCare has allowed me to keep working.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Robert	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. These citizens are already stretched to their limits or they wouldn't need state assistance. I deal with low income and poverty stricken Oklahomans in my work. In 20+ years I've not met the hypothetical lazy welfare family that sits on the sofa and spends the governments money. They raise children (and sometimes grandchildren) and work crappy jobs. They drive older, unreliable cars. They need our support, not an additional obligation.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		their coverage. See above.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. See above.	
8/27/2018	Helen	Why would this kind of action even be proposed? This is just another example of cruelty. Who thinks this a solution to anything other than just making sure the rich stay rich or get richer. Oklahomans are so tired of this type of greed. Leave Medicaid alone!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Myra	This is a cruel, mean-spirited proposal. People relying on SoonerCare are responsible for the care of children and adults with special needs and elderly family members. Who will care for these people if the care-giver is forced to work away from home? This is yet another example of the hypocrisy I have observed in this state, OK, where the elected and appointed officials flaunt their piety and religion and then propose legislation that hurts rather than helps the people who need help the most. What would Jesus do?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	RM	Sooner Care is critical to the lives n health of our children, single parents and seniors. This proposal is a catch 22 for Recipients And an example example of government Bureacracy. This proposal is a death sentence for some Oklahoman. It creates a financial burden on hospital ER units when they must treat everyone. ER treating children n adults with symptoms that a A clinic can handle better reduces effectiveness in treating emergencies. A single mom can easily lose their job if they have a sick child and sending a sick child to daycare is impossible, sending a sick child to school affects the health of classmates, playmates and teachers. An unhealthy population also affected economic success or failure. If you don't understand this, you need to back to school with a good Economics or social studies teacher. You certainly have no business making laws. Do not ask the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare/Medicaid coverage. You will be killing Oklahomans with critical health issues.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Jeremy	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It could affect both of my foster children.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. In Guymon, there are a lot of people that work at jobs with fluctuating schedules. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		SoonerCare. Since republicans are dismantling the Affordable Health Care plan, it would leave a lot of people uninsured. . Sooner care has helped us with our foster children and without it, we might not have been able to take care of the children we did.	
8/27/2018	Debra	This is absolutely preposterous; makes absolutely not sense; is not proven to help; and I am against this nonsense!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Jan	The new SoonerCare proposal is dangerous to many needy families. It must be scrapped and an alternative put forward.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Susan	I am concerned about families losing Soonercare services. These families truly need to be able to obtain medical care. PLEASE consider continuing services for our families. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Ann	Always want to punish poor people for being poor. This only affects a small population in our state. Most of the reason people are poor is NOT because they don't want to work or don't work. It is a variety of different reasons. Even then, most low end jobs don't supply health insurance and these folks can't get any other jobs. Employers won't give them full time employment to obtain insurance. This is just more hate filled legislation that wants to punish. Most folks in these circumstances need medical care and can benefit from it. Oklahoma didn't even expand Medicaid, so this legislation doesn't affect very many people. Mary Fallin didn't want to do anything that Obama suggested. How about those National I.D.'s ???? OK had to ask for another extension; because of who????? Stupid corrupt Mary Fallin. But apparently our legislation doesn't have any thing better to do. How about schools, infrastructure, prison reform????? Nope, it easier to punish poor people who work low wage jobs who can't get health insurance. When our total population is healthy we all benefit. This attitude of . . . "I don't want my money to go to poor people who don't work or only work part-time (even though that is all the work they can get)" is punitive and hate filled. I have to pay taxes for schools, even though my children are finished with school. Some things we need to do to make our society better. Some people take years to get on Social Security Disability and what do they do in the meantime as far as health concerns??? Well, maybe Mississippi will enact this and we, AGAIN, will be par with them. I love being at the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		bottom of the U.S. That is where OK always is on all legislation because we do not put people first. Legislators put themselves first greedily take all the money they get from voting for special interests.	
8/27/2018	Hayley	The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families. This is burdensome and could cause qualified families to lose coverage. Regardless everyone deserves access to healthcare and sick people cannot work. OK would be doing a disservice to the economy and it's citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Carol	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would result in many people losing access to health care.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Those who lose Sooner Care would have to turn to hospital ERs for treatment which is more costly and may often be too late for them.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. As above.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/27/2018	Leanne	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Members of the disability community cannot find volunteer or work related activities in this community.....no one will hire them, due to their disabilities.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. If they are kicked off Medicaid persons with disabilities will lose their waiver services which employs people in the community and keeps persons with disabilities safe and healthy while living quality lives in the community of their choice.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would be devastating.. Medicaid waiver services employee a lot of people in the community while ensuring that persons who qualify and need the assistance can remain near their families and be an active part of community life. It is a fulfilling job for people in a small community.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/29/2018	Anonymous	We need to be making medical and health care MORE accessible to vulnerable Oklahomans, not less so. I do not support limits on SoonerCare or work requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/29/2018	Bryan P. O'Brien	My Degree in Psychology (Minor in Biology) and Masters in Student Personnel and Guidance and nearly 40 years in the classroom lead me to believe this amendment will do significant harm to too many to ever warrant its consideration much less enactment.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Ted	Stop it NOW.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Ryan	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). I have social anxiety disorder.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Many people in my community would be at risk of losing their health coverage.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Cheryl	This proposal will do nothing but further harm Oklahomans. We have enough parents stressing over daily life without adding insulting short sited requirements. The children will be further harmed and perhaps damaged for life. Working with Head Start kids and families showed me that these Medicaid/SoonerCare families need more assistance, not these demands.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Tom	Please do not let children get their SoonerCare benefits cut, this proposal places them at risk and is punitive to parents. The State of Oklahoma is grossly mis-funded in several areas, and we certainly DO NOT need to add this to the list and place our most needy children further at risk.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kerri	This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Judy	An Oklahoman taking care of her children and elderly mother should not have to worry if she can afford a doctor when she's ill. A father with an irregular work schedule should not have to choose between a meal and his insulin. That's why SoonerCare is there to ensure that our most	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		vulnerable families can get essential health care in time of need.	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Sharon	I own a small nurse practitioner clinic in Norman. We have a very large Soonercare population. We have experienced so many cuts in the last 4-5 years that we have been on the verge of closing many times. The cut in our capitation starting in January equals a cut in our monthly income of over \$10,000 per month. That hurts, especially when you have a very tight budget to begin with. Making it harder for families to qualify and stay qualified for Soonercare will greatly affect my business. We are one of the few Medicaid providers in our areas. Making additional cuts to the Medicaid budget will most certainly cause providers to close their doors OR cause them to stop being a Medicaid provider. There is already a shortage of providers because of the budget cuts. Further cuts also puts already at risk families in greater hardship. They're barely making it as it is. Please reconsider.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Teresa	This proposal is immoral and deeply flawed. Soonercare is the only healthcare available for working adults who don't make enough money to be able to afford any other healthcare options for their children. If they are required to work the number of hours to qualify for Soonercare, they'll make too much money to qualify, but still not enough money to purchase healthcare insurance. Please don't do this to the children of struggling Oklahoma families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Anita	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. If a parent that is on SoonerCare has to work or volunteer in order to maintain health coverage they will not be able to properly care for their children. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . A member of my family had a much needed knee surgery.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Laura	This proposal works off of assumptions that most people on Medicaid who are 'able-bodied' don't work. FAKE NEWS. This policy doesn't work; it harms. Do the right thing: withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Julie	As a state, we have to learn how to support our community. Sometimes this means providing for them until they get to a place where they can do it for themselves. Please protect SoonerCare for those who rely on it for basic needs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jonathan	I am on SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes. I have schizophrenia and bipolar 1 disorder with depression, anxiety, and PTSD.. I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. If enacted this proposal will throw thousands of innocent lives off of soonercare. This requirement would force people to work who can't - for whatever reason - work. I can't work due to paranoia, hallucinations, and psychotic episodes I endure on the weekly basis. I take my medication to try and reduce these symptoms but they still occur making it impossible to work. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Who wants to create a catch-22 for disenfranchised parents? . I have benefited greatly from soonercare, without it I would be dead no questions about it. This healthcare coverage being held in the air is literally a life and death scenario for me. Without the coverage I would be unable to subdue the episodes and psychosis, rendering me completely mad and out of touch with reality. This would cause me to be in greater danger. I completely disagree with taking potentially thousands of lives off of soonercare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Amber	Gourmet proposal on soonercare is going to her lower class families who cannot afford insurance especially the people that go every day and make sure you guys have lunches to eat that can't afford insurance in the state has to provide for them and help them and y'all want to take something away like that that helps families that's wrong just because you could afford it it doesn't mean everyone else can it's not right for people who can't afford insurance to have to worry about going to the doctor in about being sick and missing work or school or whatever else that they're doing to try to better their lives have to worry about health insurance	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Vicki	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Laurie	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jennifer	The citizens of OK deserve better	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Amanda	Sooner Care is vital to my family. I have a nine year old daughter who uses Sooner Care. She has server allergies and needs it to help with her medications. I also have Oklahoma Healthcare Authority as my insurance because my job does not offer insurance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	LaDonna	Too many famikies rely on this program, working families, as well as ones who've become disabled. Politicians are always seemingly trying to get you to vote them in, so why not make a difference and keep this program afloat, are would we rather fund senseless trains in the downtown area, not to mention all of these venues that only SOME are welcomed in... Besides, if the disadvantaged, working families as well, can't afford to go to the doctor, will not one of you eventually need the program as well? Are maybe your parents will?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Phil	WWJD.....feed the hungry ,help heel the sick,.....on and on Do whats humane ..regardless.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Nancy	Health care is a right, not a luxury. Withdraw the plan to take health care away from parents who can't meet an arbitrary work standard.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Phil	My daughter stepped up to take to raise her cousins daughters son who DHS was threatening to take him ..how much would that cost the state vs helping my daughter out with some help.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Ryan	Please do not accept the new medicaid proposal. It will hurt our poorest and most vulnerable citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Fran	Please protect underserved Oklahoma families. The work requirement proposal for OHCA qualifications is a catch-22 as families with higher income will not qualify for medical services, leaving them uninsured. The safety net clinics are already overwhelmed with uninsured Oklahomans that have no access to care. The higher the number of uninsured parents the higher the morbidity and mortality. For example, uninsured women have a higher risk for maternal mortality and morbidity if they were to Become pregnant adding cost to prenatal care and suffering to the families. This proposal is not cost-savings at all!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brianna	Please withdraw the priposal and help all the famiies who need soonercare	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kim	This program is so important to so many without it the children will not get the healthcare they need, this is so very important I am sure that is save lives in the long run. My family alone is one that has been on sooner care and it has helped save my daughters life because without the insurance we would not been able to get her the help that she has needed it is been a blessing beyond a blessing and I think God that we had this available for her and her other children. It has been a true blessing! I cannot express how much or how important it has been but I hope and pray that that we can all get help and need to help protect our children to take care of our children when we can always do so ourselves . Please think about the hundreds of kids that will not get healthcare if this changes, and what does KISR mean for their health, and God for bid something happens to a child because they didn't have the healthcare they need. My daughter has gotten to go to counseling that she needed so badly because we have sooner care in with out that I do not know what would be today! She might've ran away she might've hurt herself who knows what would happen, again it has been a blessing and she still wasn't working on her self and still working to be better every day... it has helped her, so much! Prayers for you all make these decisions, to have God's guidance in those things, in all things to help you to make the right decisions to figure out what you need to do to make it work.... amen and God bless!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Gloria	This iz crazy . Sooner care is needed by all low income families . Some people cant work very many hours a week or any at all because of disabled or sick children or just having children in general or sick parents of siblings to take care of . Think a bit harder on this one !!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Keith	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Members of my community do not need additional burdens placed upon them. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Members of my community do not need the additional stress and burden of counting hours. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Members of my community do not need the additional stress this proposal would place upon them. . SoonerCare helps keep children in my community well and participating in educational opportunities.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brenda	Please don't take this from our people. They need this program. My two young grandsons are on this program. Without it, they would have no insurance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Denise	Sooner care is designed to help those who are having a very hard time. That means they are care-givers, they are ill, they are children. Every group of people must hold up the weak and vulnerable or we are not worth being called human. Please disregard those who say we need to have work requirements. They don't know what they're talking about. People work when they can. If they can't, then we need to help them until they can. Oklahoma is already hungrier and poorer and sicker than most states. Don't make it worse!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Amy	Save SoonerCare and save thousands and lives. Too many families rely on this service. It would be a detriment to the state. Save SoonerCare!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jennifer	Can you please leave medicaid for young children and parents. The wages are not high enough to live off of, and I can't stand to see children go sick. If they are sick then everyone will be sick. If we are not protecting them, we are not protecting the rest of the world either, that not being the point. They deserve a healthy life, they did not	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		chose to be born. It is our right as humans, Oklahoman's, parents, and fellow American's to protect our future. We are human, where is the humanity?	
8/30/2018	Pamela	Please protect poor people who are sick. I worked for 30 years for the government, am now retired with good insurance and I can barely pay my medical bills. Please help those less fortunate. I don't mind paying taxes for those reasons. Our country will falter if we don't. God watches over our country because we take care of our poor, sick and elderly.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Alicia	Do not punish the ill when they are sick. They cannot help it if they don't have the ability to afford private healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brenda	Ok let me get this. If a person works everyday they won't qualify for SoonerCare because they make too much money. So the solution is the person quit his full time job become unemployed so he can get SoonerCare. I'm sorry but that is the problem, don't take responsibility, quit the job so someone else can pay for your health care. I like the new proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Cheryl	The threshold to qualify for Medicaid is 800 a month which will not cover the cost of daycare for mothers. As I understand it, this will hurt single mothers who have children 6 and older but children six and slightly older can not be left unsupervised! DHS has cut childcare assistance which will leave mothers in a bind and children without healthcare! Additionally any mental health consumer who does not have SSDI will have to be certified unable to work to be exempt. Who will certify them? Their treating providers will not want to make those determinations and the process to get on SSDI is lengthy! Meanwhile without medicaid, these folks will be left without meds which will likely lead to hospitalization which is far more expensive than outpatient care and again hurts hospitals. It is common that those with mental illness also suffer from drug addiction but if they don't have SSDI, they won't be exempt from work requirements. Without Medicaid, they will not be eligible for substance abuse treatment which will make them vulnerable to the law and to arrests which again is expensive to the State! We are creating a vicious cycle that is a lose lose system. A loss for the single parents, children who need healthcare, those with mental illness and substance abuse problems.... To implement this process in the least damaging way (and it will cause damage no matter what as it's designed to cut not help) would take time and considerably more planning! And finally a cost analysis should be done to weigh the costs for the State and taxpayers for this ill conceived and cruel plan!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Jarrold	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would put an even bigger burden on the shoulders of an already struggling/single mother. The selfish/foolish polices, that are the creation of self serving, Olahoma rupublican legislators (who are backed by big oil doners) will continue to surpress the people of this state who already have a disatvanage in this society. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	C	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This will put unnecessary burdens on already vulnerable members of my community.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Economically disadvantaged members of my community already struggle with transportation. Forcing them to lose coverage due to a cruel, draconian proposal is against everything I believe Oklahoma stands for.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. People in my community should not have to worry that their attempts to crawl out of poverty will make them ineligible for affordable medical care. What is the point of such a proposal but to lock people into a state of perpetual dependency?. Soonercare allows the members of my community access to healthcare they would otherwise be denied. It gives them the sort of healthcare every citizen deserves.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Sara	I am an advocate for the aging community.. No, and why does this matter?. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would likely put many of them in coverage gap where they no longer qualify for SoonerCare, but cannot afford private coverage.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would diminish the quality of life of members in my	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		community. I am particularly concerned with the elderly and this requirement would adversely impact caretakers of the elderly. This is particularly detrimental since the volume of elderly requiring care is rapidly outpacing our systems to care for them.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. The answer is in the question. Working would become a liability. Surely deterring work is not the goal.. The aging community, with which I am concerned, cannot work and if they are without sufficient personal funds (\$5,000+ per month!), they cannot private pay. Medicaid is a lifeline for the people since Medicare does not cover the services needed.	
8/30/2018	Claudia	I use to work with the disabled children's program (SSIDCP) as a social worker. People have no idea what that entails. It is 24 hour care and lots of lifting, feeding, cleaning feeding tubes, diaper changes, etc. It is also very expensive. To make a caretaker work is insane. They are working very hard to take care of a disabled child. If they did not have help with Medicaid, they would wind up bankrupt and putting the child in a state facility. That would cost more in the long run and be heartbreaking for all. I have seen genetic disabilities that would break one's heart. Disabilities people have never even thought of. I will never understand the cruel and non-Christian people out there that do not understand. Medicaid is also for nursing home care (after all resources depleted and income taken by the state). It is also for the elderly, disabled adults including veterans, blind, mentally ill, accident victims and those suffering from mental retardation. If we cannot take care of those in need, we are not Christians, good people, or worth breathing air.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Liz	Making our safety net dependent on working means that we are punishing children, the elderly and those who find themselves unemployed in an unpredictable economy. This is not acceptable. As a physician, I see daily the cost of no health insurance for patients. This plan would further steal health and wellness from thousands Oklahomans. This policy is abhorrent and should be scuttled immediately.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Taryn	Please do not follow through with the cuts to this program. Families in rural areas, individuals with chronic illness or disabilities, and individuals struggling with substance use disorders or mental illness could lose the ability to see a doctor or fill a prescription as a result. This means more Oklahoma families dealing with staggering medical bills or untreated illness - two issues that already keep too many of our families from getting ahead.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Christopher	I am deeply disturbed by this proposal. Our focus on hindering the poorest of our state in their pursuit of a better life is unconscionable. This is not in the spirit of the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		American dream about which our founders spoke so passionately and which our leaders today use as a guise for cruel government.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brenda	Please do not do further harm to those who are most vulnerable in our state. "By this shall all men know ye are my disciples, if ye have love, one to another.". I'm tired of politicians not doing what they are there for-- helping those in need. I am voting for those who support Oklahoma and it's citizens and I am shocked at this administration and it's actions. Take note.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brenda	You should not restrict benefits from families that need them. Families already struggle in Oklahoma to feed and care for their families as there is little job opportunities in small towns and rural communities where salaries barely cover the cost of basic needs, and most families are at or below poverty level.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Debra	The poor, disabled and elderly need Medicaid to get services	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Gena	please reconsider this work requirement for parents. It has not gone well in other states. We are already near the bottom in healthcare rankings, having parents lose their coverage will not improve the health of our community. Many soonercare parents have low education and thus will make low wages and not be able to afford hc coverage. please do not enact a work requirement for parents.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Mary	This will unfairly hurt the poor and disadvantaged.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Anessa	Please do not increase work requirements. I understand the attempt to get more people working but there is a lack of consideration about the barriers to employment and the dysfunction of the system. Adding this work requirement will only cause more damage to Oklahoma's already strained low income families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Michelle	Taking away low-cost medical insurance from those caretakers is unconscionable. These parents may not be able to work a job "enough" hours or volunteer because they are caring for their child/charge/etc. Why are you wanting to punish those who need the very most help? It is absolutely sinful to look at increasing a work requirement for these individuals and their families!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Robert	It is better to best for right than to be right. It this particular issue, the issue is moral obligation above partisan politics. To qualify and address health care need with a conditional response or insensitive, unAmerican	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		requirements is wrong. Please reconsider a more wise approach to dealing with person accountability. Do you want to be right, or do you want to be for what is right? Do the right thing!	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brandon	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I would support a system for parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work, though I do not believe this should be directly linked to their health coverage.. I work with the children of numerous low-income families, and ensuring health coverage for these parents and families is incredibly important. Some of the services my place of employment can provide are directly linked to eligibility & coverage by SoonerCare, and without this support several of these families would suffer greatly.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. As noted previously, this SoonerCare coverage is critical to adequate service delivery and support within my place of employment. These families need access to health coverage, which should be a basic right, in order to live and support their families with outside services. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . Families with SoonerCare coverage have accessible to them clinics on-site at many locations across the school district in which I am employed. Without SoonerCare coverage these families, many of whom do not have reliable transportation, lose access to the closest healthcare clinic which would be able to support their needs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Charles	At a time when our access to healthcare is being attacked, cut, and dismantled we as Oklahomans must unite to care for our most vulnerable citizens. This change can and will affect children, mothers, and fathers. Access to affordable healthcare is a right that we must ensure. Those who are on SoonerCare who can work already do. Those who are looking to work while on SoonerCare risk losing access to healthcare. We cannot let this happen! We must protect poor Oklahomans so that together we can have a healthy thriving state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Chris	From the beginning this effort has been more about showing voters that the legislature is "tough on welfare" instead of truly doing something that will help the Oklahomans our legislature is charged with helping. These work requirements have been tried in other states and have failed to produce the desired results because they begin with a false premise -- namely that poor Oklahomans are just cheating the system.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It makes no sense, is, at best, mean-spirited and, at worst, a targeted attack on people I must assume many legislators think ought to just "work harder." Please protect the already weakened system we call SoonerCare. Do not leave even more vulnerable parents and children exposed to illness and suffering.	
8/30/2018	Roni	I am writing to address the proposal to cut Medicaid benefits for those who don't meet certain work requirements. Many Oklahoma families, children included, will be harmed by this proposal. We must protect the state's most vulnerable, particularly the children. We've already suffered from the governor's ill-conceived plan to refuse federal Medicaid money; this will only further harm Oklahomans. I agree with Scott Melson, who said in his op-ed that "rather than insult the dignity of SoonerCare members", the governor and legislators should be working to build an educational and economic system that supports all Oklahomans.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Lori	Sometimes this hurts more than it helps. Lets take this case by case instead of across the board.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Glenda	How much more is it going to cost to monitor work and volunteering? What about when these people clog the ERs when they need care or are seriously injured? How many people are able to work or work more hours? Sex offenders, mentally ill, and felons have trouble finding work and or places to volunteer. HEALTH CARE FOR EVERYONE!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Michael	The proposal intended to force Medicaid clients to work is flawed and should not move forward. Of the 800,000 Medicaid patients in Oklahoma, the work rules would apply to 74,000, most of whom are already working or can't find work. Just 6,000 Oklahomans (0.75% of all Medicaid beneficiaries) would be affected and there is no claim that budget savings is a goal of the proposal. In fact, given the small number of people affected, this proposal will likely cost more than it saves. This proposal is flawed because it assumes that people on Medicaid don't want to work and that they must be forced to work with the threat of losing healthcare coverage. There is no evidence that this approach works; instead, there are many other effective ways of helping able-bodied adults enter the workforce. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income families, but this proposal does not seem to consider	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		effects on parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Instead, those who lose coverage will have a more difficult time staying healthy and entering the workforce. Simply put, this is a waste of taxpayer dollars with no commitment to save money; there is no evidence that suggests this will benefit the state; and it will harm low-income parents and children, preventing them from seeing a doctor and taking preventive measures to avoid illness thereby increasing the difficulty of entering and staying in the workforce. It is counter-productive and should be withdrawn.	
8/30/2018	Debbie	Please Tell the Health Care Authority that the state's new SoonerCare proposal will hurt Oklahoma families and they should withdraw it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Patricia	I believe this proposal should be withdrawn because I don't believe it will be a cost-savings in the end. Families who are kicked off Sooner Care will still need treatment, which will overwhelm our ERs and Urgent Care facilities, costing the state much more money. It vilifies a small percentage of our residents who need the safety net. And since it was promoted by an administration that is getting overwhelmingly voted out, I do not feel it is an issue the public supports.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Amina	This proposal will create unnecessary burdens on both individuals suffering from medical conditions and poverty, and agencies now tasked with the added burden of reviewing and processing more layers of paperwork. Please, stop creating more barriers too much needed relief aid and support for those who need the most help.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Sharon	I am a registered nurse, licensed psychologist, and concerned citizen. The proposed work requirement will be an obstacle impeding access to health services available through medicaid. It creates additional bureaucratic processes that channel public dollars away from services and toward administrative costs in both the public and private sector. The large majority of folks who can work do work. This will punish those who cannot work because of the opportunistic misdeeds of a few who take advantage of the system. Our public resources would be better utilized in job coaching and training programs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Donna	Thank you for taking comments on planned work requirement for Medicaid recipients. As a former Medicaid recipient on behalf of my children I want to express my gratitude that this aid was available to me as a working parent in a two-income household. My partner and I both worked full-time and still needed help to provide regular medical care for our children. Currently, my grandchildren are receiving Medicaid and their parents	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		all work. I do not think the problem lies with people not working. The problem lies in the poverty-level wages paid across sectors and industries in Oklahoma and the US. There is a very fine line between working to make a living and working to pay for child care. It just does not make sense to force a parent to pay more for child care than they will actually earn that day, just to satisfy the sensibilities of self-righteous politicians who have no clue about the lived experiences of the families they are implying do not 'deserve' medical assistance.	
8/30/2018	Yolanda	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would be another stressor in a life full of uncertainties. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. For people who work for an hourly wage with someone else in control of scheduling, it seems vastly unfair to punish them for work schedules out of their control. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would produce more unhealthy people in my community . SoonerCare means that there are children who attend school are healthy. SoonerCare means that people in my community that work in places that interact with the public are healthy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kathryn	Please don't cut SoonerCare benefits. The kids of poor families shouldn't suffer and have inadequate health care because their parents are poor, mentally ill or otherwise impaired.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Timothy	As a pastor I just don't understand how we keep attacking the families of our state with bad policy. Do not take away health coverage for vulnerable parents and children. Protect our families and stop the madness. I do not support these changes to medicaid.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jerry	The Republican work for Medicaid is insanity at its best. I work full time to support my disabled wife who cannot work due to her illness. The republican party is without empathy, is without heart and is only interested in the selfishness of corporations that support their campaigns. Far too many Oklahoma citizens will be devastated by this heinous act. Start supporting our neighbors first and foremost. STOP putting your special interest funding sources first.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Barbara	Blanket requirements of work or volunteering from the poorest segment of our population solves nothing. Some	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		are too ill to work, some are full time caregivers for family, some have small children and can not afford childcare. Work on solutions instead of punishments.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Matthew	Health Insurance should be a right and available to those in need. We are either emphasizing what it means to be human or more in love with money. Please do the right thing.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	James	I certainly agree with the sentiment that people who do not need public assistance but take it only burden the system for those who do need it. But is that really a problem so large that we end up damaging many more families, and their communities by "throwing out the baby with the bath water"? The devil is in the details on this and I greatly fear that in the zeal to overcome an insignificant problem a huge problem will be created for everyone. Restraint please.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Diane	Please stop using medical care for our most vulnerable citizens as a punitive tool in your conservative agenda. Oklahomans are kind people and want to help people in need. Please stop hurting our citizens. This is shameful.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	John	Oklahoma is at the bottom of the list in caring for our most at risk population. Are we now moving downward to off the list!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Hayley	Please don't do ANYTHING to limit access to the ALREADY INCREDIBLY LIMITED access to Medicaid in Oklahoma. It feels like punishment for living in this state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Raegan	I am a young college student from a single parent home. My mother's work does not offer healthcare benefits, and she cannot afford a healthcare plan which covers her children. I use Medicaid to help me cover the medical expenses I accrue during my college years. This program is vital to my health and well being as I could not pay for the medical assistance I need out of pocket. PLEASE PROTECT SOONERCARE AND MEDICAID	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Nancy	It is a terrible idea to cut health benefits for anyone but especially already impoverished people. They will never be able to take care of their loved ones and Pay the medical bills. I will end up and what were used to call debtors prison. Please continue to cover people who desperately need care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Heather	This is a radical new path for our most basic health care program for low-income Oklahomans. The consequences could be devastating. Families in rural areas, individuals with chronic illness or disabilities, and individuals struggling with substance use disorders or mental illness could lose the ability to see a doctor or fill a prescription as a result. This means more Oklahoma families dealing with staggering medical bills or untreated illness - two issues that already keep too many of our families from getting ahead.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Mary Beth	This proposal does not stand for anything a good, honest Oklahoman can stand. I proudly pay my taxes to see our great state take care of one another. Shame on you for trying to shame others and take away their safety nets. You'd better not claim to love Jesus with this type of legislation proposal. ""The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.'" -Matthew 25:40	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Julie	Taking away coverage from a person who is unable to work enough will neither increase work or improve health. Instead, it actually harms both. Please withdraw the proposal to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who aren't able to meet your work requirements. Have some compassion. Put yourself in their shoes. Please don't make their situations worse than they already are.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Karen	I have learned that the OHCA is considering imposing work requirements on people receiving benefits. I have worked with many low-income people through the Salvation Army and I know how much they struggle. The idea that some of them are just sitting around idly is nonsense. Most of them are trying to make do with a series of poorly paid part-time jobs. Please don't punish the poor even more than they are already punished in this backward state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Daniel	The proposal to impose a work requirement for SoonerCare is irrational and punitive. We need broader coverage not narrower. Please reconsider. Thanks.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Vanessa	Please rethink this. I have been that mother in the past who was a single, working parent who teetered on the edge of eligibility for my child. Our children are our best hope and making sure their medical needs are met is the right and Christian thing to do.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	William	This measure will only increase suffering in Oklahoma. The savings will be marginal and the only beneficiaries will be employers desperately trying to avoid raising wages for their Oklahoma workers. In reality, this will probably not even accomplish the odious goal of forcing more people into the low-wage labor market.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Sue	The proposal to cut SoonerCare aid should be withdrawn. Every Oklahoman deserves quality health care. Start now.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Juanda	Making a blanket policy for all recipients is nothing more than pandering to the base. Each family/person has a different situation. Yes there are some that should work some for benefits, but it doesn't make sense that everyone be required. If it is impossible, it should go on a case by case basis. What about handicapped, elderly, mentally challenged and a host of others who just cannot work for the sake of their safety?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Tracy Lyn	As a lifelong Okie, I am very disappointed in the direction we continue to go. It really is a race to the bottom in our state. Our citizens should not be punished for being poor or struggling. We can do better. We should be expanding SoonerCare, not limiting it. Kicking people off SoonerCare will only make for more emergency room visits and unpaid hospital bills yielding higher medical costs for everyone. Kicking parents off SoonerCare will create a disadvantage for children that are already in adverse living situations. Please consider a more compassionate approach that is better for ALL Okies!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kelly	This proposal is absurd and counter-productive to everything Oklahoma should stand for. What kind of sense does it make to reduce medical assistance to the very neediest among us? All this will do is reduce productivity, increase sicknesses and disease, increase absenteeism in schools and increase the burden on emergency rooms. All of these things cost taxpayers money in one form or another. So, even if our legislators cannot see that this is a cruel, hateful thing to do, at least see that there is not a long-term economic benefit to such an action. Oklahoma should be better than this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Susan	I'm appalled at how heartless my fellow Oklahoma politicians can be! Your inability to be empathetic is truly a sign of what kind of humans you are! You all should be ashamed!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Tamey	The idea that low income individuals who meet the income requirements to qualify for discounted or free healthcare should be removed from qualification based on their lack of work- astounds me. How do we expect individuals to work towards independence from such programs if we do not recognize the need for support when the minimum wage has not increased in almost 10 years. Jobs that require as needed hours- do not provide regular weekly	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		hours. Those jobs in the Hospitality fields such as restaurants and hotel do not guarantee 40 hours paid per week. Wait staff and front desk/maintenance/Housekeeping are job positions that companies require to accommodate business travelers in Oklahoma. Travel/Tourism is with the top three generators for State income. Our adult employee who utilize Sooner Care depend on that State subsidized healthcare. Without the option, our employees cannot come to work healthy and productive. If the low income working class, who keeps restaurants, hotels and office buildings open for business are not supported with at least minimum healthcare- we cannot welcome/host the Route 66 Tourist, the small/large Meeting groups and or Business travel to Oklahoma. The other low income individuals I refer to are those individuals able to speak for themselves- Adults on SSI for disabilities. What about the already discounted program of the DDS Waiver? We have cut funding to the point that these individuals have no healthcare and or access to basic living conditions. It's embarrassing to know that our State puts our children and the weak last on our list for concern. Our first concern is Oil. Yes I understand economic development. Yes I understand Dollars and basic math. I expect the Oklahoma State politicians to uphold the promise to care for our weak, our tired, and our poor. We after all have kept them in this position by removing any service that could support their growth.	
8/30/2018	David	I believe that Oklahoma should protect vulnerable Oklahomans. And, I'm willing to pay higher taxes to do so.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Janice	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). no. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. The parents I know on soonercare have no transportation living in a rural area to allow them to get to a job or volunteer work. In most cases these parents have small children for whom they would have to find daycare in order to meet this requirement. They would ultimately lose their health care coverage which would not only be harmful to them but reduce their ability to care for their children. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . In this country	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		if a person does not have health insurance then they do not have health care. They cannot address health issues as they arise and therefore become more ill. By allowing the illness to reach emergency status they then end up going to an ER and incurring a bill that they cannot pay. At that point those of us who do pay for our health care and insurance are forced to pay for their care anyway in the form of high medical costs so that the hospitals can defray the expense of treating people who can't afford to pay their bill. I would much rather these individuals receive tax supported health care which reduces overall health care costs rather than increasing it.	
8/30/2018	Sana	This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kelly	Sooner care should be available to those who need it. The cut off rates leave people either not working to stay eligible or having to work so much they don't actually get any quality time with their children and/or going without health care. It hurts those who are actively trying to better their situation so that they no longer require the assistance in the first place.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Steven	This proposal is a terrible idea! It will result in 1000's of needy Oklahomans being denied the medical care they need and should have unrestricted access to. The proposal is based on false assumptions regarding the feasibility of requiring the chronically ill, disabled and impaired to work & or volunteer. It is mean spirited and simply wrong!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Linda	The absolute last thing we should do is cut medical help to low-income folks!! That is not the heart of most Oklahomans and the fact that you could even consider doing this is suspect to me. This state shells out money to many useless groups and projects. It's time we think: "People First" not those who have plenty and a good home to live in--but those who are truly in need. Go to Quora.com and search what it feels like to live in poverty... for your much-needed viewpoint adjustment.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Nancy	I oppose work requirements that are unreasonable or that leave people in a "Catch-22". Our state's citizens need access to health care. Our efforts should be to provide that for more people, not take it from those in need that currently have it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Donna	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No.. I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		in order to maintain health coverage. I am a retired educator and many of my students had SoonerCare as their medical coverage. For the school to be most effective in educating students and preparing them for productive careers they need to be in school and we well enough and well fed enough to focus on learning. SoonerCare was a vital part of keeping students in school. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. My SoonerCare parents had many other important responsibilities that prohibited them from consistent work responsibilities.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Please see the answer to the previous question.. When children and young people are well they can focus on learning.	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brandi	It is vital we care for the most vulnerable in our state & rescinding health care based upon the ability to work is unconscionable. Cutting health care to children & the working poor is just plain wrong. The blame & fall-out of our failing economy should not be placed on the backs of our children or hardworking Oklahomans.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Nancy	As a retired Occupational Therapist, who specialized in Home Health, I saw firsthand the complicated, chronic healthcare needs of our low income citizens. It is appalling that this proposal, cloaked in slogans, was formulated and is now promoted by "Family Values" politicians.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	John	I serve on the board of a community mental health center. The act of moving clients who have a mental health condition to the State contract will deny or diminish services to many current clients. This will create additional costs in a system that is already overburdened. The proposed changes are ill advised.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Bill	We the privileged think everyone can be like us if the poor only try harder. We keep them in cages away from us, in rundown neighborhoods, in jails and prisons, and out of our world. The proposal is a radical new path for our most basic health care program for low-income Oklahomans. The consequences could be devastating. Families in rural areas, individuals with chronic illness or disabilities, and individuals struggling with substance use disorders or mental illness could lose the ability to see a doctor or fill a prescription as a result. This means more Oklahoma families dealing with staggering medical bills or untreated illness - two issues that already keep too many of our families from getting ahead. I ask your NOT to cut health coverage for low-income parents who don't report working or volunteering.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Douglas	I do not believe that there is any evidence that the proposed changes to Oklahoma law as to how healthcare is distributed will be improve or that the people denied coverage will be able to improve their lives by implementing the changes proposed. In fact, it seems logical that this is simply another cut to attempt to save a severely underfunded agency which is underfunded due to tax cuts for the wealthier Oklahomans. Enough is enough. Stop this insanity. Leave the law as it currently is.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Robert	I am most concerned that the actions you are considering will prove harmful to the health of many current Oklahomans who rely on SoonerCare coverage. Many will either suffer (and worsen) without medical attention. I encourage you to reconsider.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Erica	This is so sad. We are supposed to take care of our people. NO matter those who are or are not working. We have a crisis on our hands. Our first mistake was not accepting the Medicaid expansion, it was like a slap in the face to all of those who are working and still have no health care. And now this. When will the cuts to the poor end? Sadly, when people do get jobs and begin working then they will be over income to be able to receive Medicaid. This is a cycle that must end. All people deserve medical insurance and it is wrong of us to take it from those who need it the most. Poor people are the ones with major health problems. Do you really believe they can work without health care? While we are looking at taking away from the poor the rich continue to get richer and the middle class becomes a very thin line. Stop this before it is to late.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Lindy	We should use our tax money to help those less fortunate, if we can give HUGE tax breaks we can help out people that need it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Judie	Another Republican tactic to marginalize those who can hardly stay afloat (let alone be a big political contributor!) As if not expanding Medicaid in OK wasn't enough... I have a granddaughter who is working as a nurse tech as she attends nursing school and cares for a 5-year old child.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	George	Read John Rawls "A Theory of Justice" and you'd know that what you are proposing is wrong. Policies should not hurt the least amount us. Plus one of the principal reasons for taxation is to limit the power of the powerful. Your proposal will in fact INCREASE the power of the powerful by lowering taxes not raising them on the wealthy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Judie	As if refusing to expand Medicare in OK wasn't mean enough, the Republican establishment has come up with yet another way to marginalize the many in our state who	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		can barely stay afloat (let alone be big contributors to political campaigns!) I have a granddaughter who is working 12-hour nights as a nurse tech while taking care of a 5 year old daughter and attending school full time. She has always been so grateful for Sooner Care, and now Fallin wants to pull that rug out from under her--and the thousands like her. Don't let our feckless governor pull one more ugly stunt before she (finally!) leaves office. If this goes away, I'm sure we can't depend on getting it back if Stitt becomes governor.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Del	There is no estimate about the cost of this zany idea. The attempt to adjudicate conflicts is likely to be both time-consuming and expensive. As a lawyer, I have no trouble observing that your are creating a new class of people who need legal advice desperately and don't have any money. Finally, the attempt to exempt Indian tribes is nuts, and invites interjecting the state into individual disputes that it cannot possibly resolve in any useful period of time.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Andy	Please withdraw this Medicaid waiver proposal now! It would be a 100-year catastrophe for people with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses. Thank you!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Charity	I just moved to Minnesota from Oklahoma and part of the reason I did is because I can't afford to lose my Medicaid if you cut Medicaid for people please don't do this it drives people away. I'm on disability and I was trying to work part-time and I was always afraid I lose my health insurance if I work but then I know you got it work if people don't work they lose their health insurance so it's just kind of messed up and I don't really appreciate if you wouldn't pass something to make things hard for people to have health insurance that are poor in Oklahoma I miss Oklahoma wish I could live there but they are I can't live there anymore	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brenda	When children or parents or siblings are chronically ill, someone has to be there to take care of them. Now, if you are working the required hours, you lose soonercare coverage, if you don't work the required hours, you lose coverage and must get insured through other means which LOW INCOME FOLKS could never afford!! So it seems to me that this is just a way to do away with soonercare altogether. Your punishing the sick... is that really what we are about in this state?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jeff	Please hold off on changing OK Medicare work requirements. More study needs to be done so unattended hardships are keep to a minimum. Today we are following guidelines for qualification. I wish for those guidelines stay in place.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	William	This will hurt and jeopardize the lives of thousands of Oklahoma families. What would you think if it affected you?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Rick	Poor people need health Insurance. Poor people need a work program that offers help with education and transportation issues. You cannot combine the two and punish people by not providing health insurance. When I was working, I did not work when I was Sick or Injured, yet I still had Health Insurance. I am a disabled Firefighter.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Ralph	The Legislature and Governor must understand that there are risks to mandating Medicaid work requirements. The older individuals with illness and disability should not be subjected to rules that will deprive them of necessary care and medication prescriptions. Doctors should not have the burden of making decisions relating to care, against the standards that they are sworn to provide for medical care. Determining functional limitations and compliance requirements creates administrative burdens that may outweigh the costs of the necessary care that patients require. Requiring work per se does not make an individual more healthy, particularly if the work must be juggled between awkward shifts and the need for the individual to provide care at home for family and children. A better solution would be to provide job training to learn the skills to be able to fill job positions that enhance the dignity of work to justify the provision of Medicaid assistance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Patricia	This is wrong and will just end up overthrown by the courts. Just stop.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	John	The right to life does not end at birth . Assuring that innocent children have access to decent and timely medical care is an issue that should transcend Partisan differences. Certainly this is an issue on which all sides all can agree.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Peggu	Many families will once again be hurt by Oklahoma policies that are a waste of time and tax dollars. If we had taken the Medicaid expansion many of our problems would be solved, but once again our party in control and others have put policy before people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Donna	Please protect low income families needing health care. A hard an firm rule doesn't take into account what issues that family is facing. In our rural areas there isn't any child care after 6 p.m. No transportation except Pelivan from 8-4 and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		at a cost of \$2.50 from point A to B. To do grocery shopping that is \$5 for one person! Those that are voting on this please take a week to live your life without your car, without money in your pocket, without the staples or having to go ask a food bank for a hand out just to feed your kids. Would you be exhausted and depressed? Our agency uses volunteers and would love to accept them to put in their hours to comply. However trauma and life damaging issues create a broken life and more case management is needed and not a "hourly" figure to comply to get medical help. Actually as I type this it really sounds punitive and ridiculous. We need to be lifting each other up and helping everyone lead a healthy, non-violent, respectful life. Guess what - that starts with us not "them"! How about a program that they get more food stamps or VIP status for health if they volunteer hours!!!! Thanks for reading and pondering.	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kay	The assumption of the planned change is severely flawed. It assumes people are not working by choice. They are in a Catch-22, work and earn "too much" and lose health care. Their children may have disabilities, they may have disabilities or mental illness. The Sooner Care population NEEDS health care for a host of reasons. The proposal needs to be withdrawn until more thought is given to the impact on low-income families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Crystal	Without SoonerCare, my 3 beautiful children would now be left without a mother. Thanks to SoonerCare, I was diagnosed early enough that my cervical cancer didn't have time to progress into death. I certainly can't be the only person with a story like this. Please don't leave our children to suffer with no health care, or parents.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Valerie	Without SoonerCare, my 3 beautiful children would now be left without a mother. Thanks to SoonerCare, I was diagnosed early enough that my cervical cancer didn't have time to progress into death. I certainly can't be the only person with a story like this. Please don't leave our children to suffer with no health care, or parents.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Tami	It is cruel to expect recipients of medicaid to work in order to receive their benefits. Surely the OHCA realizes that a majority of the people on SoonerCare are children, the elderly and the disabled. Three groups of people who cannot work at all or at the capacity of an un-afflicted adult. Do the right thing and stop assuming everyone who gets these services is just wanting a hand out.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Haley	I have not heard or seen any public information showing how this cut will help the state in any way. We will be hurting Oklahoma families and costing ourselves and cutting short our future health. I am against this change.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Mitzi	The government is ruining our state. This work so many hours is the ridiculous thing I've ever heard of. Not	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		everybody is capable of working. jobs don't come by that easy for everybody. And then when they do have jobs you'll say they make too much money. How are some single parents to work, and pay their daycare, and pay expensive medical bills. A lot of people don't even get child support. So many are in jail or prison because of the corrupt judicial system. DHS takes kids away from their parents for stupid reasons. Makes it impossible to get them back. But they pay the same kind of people for being a Foster Home. Or let the same kind of people adopt them. That they took them away from. Why should DHS case workers get bonuses when they complete adoptions? The system is corrupt and you'll be gonna cause more crimes to happen. When people are left with no choices they will go into a Survival Mode! When a person is hungry or sick they will do what they have to to get it! It's stupid. You'll let immigrants get food stamps and all that. But our own born and raised American citizens are denied when they need help!! Quit sending everyone to prison and taking parents away from their children. Then maybe things would get better. Make the private prisons pay for something. They sure can pay the people they want to off, to keep them in full capacity. Brag about how much money they bring in! Somebody has got to take the stand and help this state!	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Su	Please don't take any action to reduce medical benefits for medicaid recipients. The number of hours worked or volunteered should not be a consideration in qualifying for medicaid benefits.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Renee	Please do not put work restrictions on access to medical care for Oklahomans! This is not ethical and further hurts our health outcomes for Oklahoma. We are already struggling in so many areas - placing work restrictions on people who cannot work due to mental illness, addiction, chronic diseases, disabilities, etc. is not going to help them go to work! They will still be too sick, and now they won't be able to get basic health care and medications to get better. Reconsider this proposal!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Karen	As a member of the Oklahoma House of Representatives, I voted against this bill when it came up on the House Floor and I will continue to vote against it and any similar bill that should show up in the future. I think it is punitive and mean-spirited to people who already have too much stress in their lives.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jim	I am fortunate to not personally be affected by any proposed change to work requirements for those receiving Sooner Care in our state. While I understand it is important for able-bodied individuals to work to support their families, I also understand there are many who are	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		receiving Sooner Care benefits that will not even be capable of understanding new requirements they may need to fulfill in order to maintain coverage. As good citizens, we need to take a more compassionate approach to such people. It makes no sense to take away benefits while creating a bureaucratic nightmare that will cost millions to administer while leaving many unfortunate citizens with no medical coverage. As a Republican, I am often ashamed at how our Republican lead state government ignores those in our society who have medical, mental, or social needs. I do not support a change in policy that requires those receiving Sooner Care to prove they are working or volunteering a prescribed amount of time. We need to find a better way to lift up these in our society who have needs.	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Dallas	I have spent many years working with poor families in rural Oklahoma. I am also a tax-payer and a voter. I am concerned with the consequences of requiring people to work or volunteer in order to keep Sooner Care. The consequence of this law is moving some people from poverty to starvation. From discomfort to desperation. When schools are open four days per week... when mental health treatment is nearly unattainable... when high-quality food is inaccessible... why would we want to make conditions worse? Please do not implement policies to make poor people poorer. It's not helpful.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	John	Many who would support the measure to cut medical funding based on if a low income person "works or volunteers" enough; may possibly just be out of touch with how life can be on lower socio-economic echelons. While I peripherally understand the opinion that everyone should "carry their own weight," I just don't think that concept holds water when we talk about basic health care for people. If we simply look within our hearts; I believe it is easy to see that it's the RIGHT thing to do (not economically, but morally!) to help those in need who live in our communities.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Leslie	I implore you to reconsider this disastrous plan. Taking away access to medical care for the already underserved will not be tolerated by the good people of this state. Medical access is a basic human right and not the luxury you've mistakenly assumed. The message of our need to accept Medicaid expansion awareness will pulse through our communities as we are well aware any concern for our health or well being has never been a priority with this outgoing administration.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Leta	Addressing work by people on Sooner Care is not the right approach. I know through family situations that the jobs they can get they cannot get enough hours because the employer does not want to pay benefits. Also those on disability aren't able to work full time or not at all! You	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		cannot make across the board cuts to Sooner Care! Address the work situation on a case by case situation or find another solution!	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Patrick	Requiring recipients of Medicaid to work 20 hours a week does not acknowledge the hours and hours of unpaid caregiving many Oklahomans provide for loved ones. I am terminally ill and cannot pay for assistance. There are so many who are not any better off than I am, but, still provide a priceless service to people like myself. They are unable to work because they are ALREADY working.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jerry	The state's new SoonerCare proposal will hurt Oklahoma families and should be withdrawn. Taking health coverage away from low-income parents who are unable to report working enough hours every week is immoral. Remove the work requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jayne	Please do not establish work requirements for Medicaid recipients. I do not believe this will make people healthier or work more.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Carly	It is not a child's fault that their family cannot afford insurance. It is not a child's fault the they are poor. Children, especially impoverished children, have no voice, no capital with which to buy an advocate. Children are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. Who does it benefit to deny them care? Mental health services? Medicine? I suppose many of you hide in your large gated communities and your children never see poverty, but these impoverished children exist and I see them every day and they're just like every other kid. They deserve to live with dignity.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Vicki	This is false economy and does not motivate our already vulnerable populations but furthers hardship for our already impoverished and marginalized populations. This is not a sound idea or practice. It will also drive up health care expenses in emergency rooms and other medical providers offices. Not to mention impacting the health of those we are already at risk.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Martha	Stop the new work requirements now. It is cruel to subject the poor to these work requirements. SoonerCare is supposed to help the poor, not hurt them. There is no option for health coverage for them other than SoonerCare. Stop this madness now!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jay	As a new resident of Oklahoma I'm pressed to ask if this proposed move on the Medicaid Waiver an example of what it means to be a good Conservative? If so, I find it shames a State that I'm coming to really appreciate in many ways.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Gerard	It is urgent that Oklahoma retain the availability of health care for ALL its citizens, and to not place onerous requirements on the time and resources of people who may have serious conditions that limit their ability to fulfill such demands.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Brenda	I have a disabled son and husband. I am a caregiver to both. I can't work because both need help to survive. If this law passes, I won't only be uninsured, my family would be institutionalized without me. Some people don't have the choice to work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	K.A.	Soonercare is necessary for many vulnerable people.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jane	I am speaking against the proposal to change work requirements in order to receive SoonerCare. These requirements would be devastating to those with chronic illness, those who care for someone with chronic illness, and could be difficult for people with jobs that have sporadic hours (such as on-call positions, where you only work when called in). Also, any time someone receives too much income from their jobs will then lose access to care and won't be able to afford care on their own.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Mark	Please protect SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Phillip	The purpose of work requirements in welfare, according to the Congressional Research Service, is “to offset work disincentives in social assistance programs, promote a culture of work over dependency, and prioritize governmental resources,” in addition to helping lift people out of poverty WHAT DOES THE DATA SAY? [excerpted from The Atlantic, 2017; Kaiser Foundation] Research indicates that, after the passage of the 1996 welfare-reform bill, TANF’s work requirements translated, over the first two years, to increased employment or work activity—including volunteer work, community service, and some limited combinations of training, work, and job-seeking. However, those gains diminished after five years and the jobs acquired were often low-paying, meaning they could not lift people from poverty as desired. After that time, people who were on TANF and not subject to work requirements saw their employment rates rise in the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		long-term, even as the people with work requirements lost jobs. The few work requirements that did have some enduring, robust effects, like those in Portland, Oregon, and some communities in California, were coupled with strong training, subsidized work, and placement programs that invested significant time and resources into securing just those results. Many people subject to TANF's work requirements tended to have major barriers in their lives to employment—including single mothers with young or disabled children, people with mental-health or addiction issues, those who act as primary caregivers to older relatives, or those with functional physical or mental disabilities that don't meet thresholds to qualify for supplemental insurance. Research from Harvard Medical School researchers suggests some of the successes attributed to welfare reform in reducing enrollment and costs came from simply making the program less and less accessible for those who fall behind, not from helping people find jobs or lifting them from poverty. A work requirement for Medicaid forecasts a host of new potential complications given the program's size, diversity, and complexity. There is no money allocated for the kinds of rigorous initiatives found in the successful TANF work programs in Oregon and California. Also, requiring states to determine who's eligible for Medicaid based on work status would increase administrative expenses and tax administrative systems that are already overloaded, which could lead to more than a few people losing eligibility despite actually qualifying via administrative error and oversight. Medicaid enrollees include many poor men, and thus much more likely to be convicted felons than TANF beneficiaries. That means they are also likely to be barred from many likely employment options; work requirements will only hurt their prospects of ever making it out of poverty. Individuals who qualify for Medicaid because of a disability, or who receive federal disability payments, are exempted from the work requirement. But that doesn't cover every worker with disabilities: The Kaiser Family Foundation reports that many adults covered as "able bodied" under Medicaid nevertheless report significant impairments or disabilities and can't work. They may be waiting for decisions from the federal government on their disability status or may have a disability that interferes with their line of work but doesn't qualify for insurance. Again, most people on Medicaid who can work do, and low-income people working demanding jobs often do so. There isn't much evidence that penalizing the Medicaid population for not working will improve the program, its	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		outcomes, or job creation. Indeed, the only real outcome of a Medicaid work requirement is that fewer people will have access to Medicaid, which may be the point. • Most Medicaid enrollees who can work are already working but could face barriers in complying with reporting requirements. • Paid work can help provide family resources, but low-wage and part-time work may not be sufficient to overcome poverty. Most working Medicaid enrollees are working full-time for the full year. • Medicaid workers are working in service jobs with limited benefits such as sick time or health coverage. • States with approved or pending Medicaid waivers would exempt individuals with disabilities or those who are medically frail, though waiver language does not specify how medical exemptions will be operationalized or implemented. https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2017/03/why-work-requirements-in-medicaid-wont-work/520593/ https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-work-requirements-in-medicaid-what-does-the-data-say/	
8/30/2018	Nancy	This proposal is totally unacceptable for Oklahomans. This is akin to choosing who can receive health care so they might live and who cannot receive health care so let them die. We are talking about people: people who are poor, people who are un- or under-educated, people who may have special needs in physical or mental health capabilities, people who are ill, addicted or elderly and alone. The requirements for documentation may be impossible for some of these vulnerable Oklahomans to manage. I have a Master's degree, people skills, served as an ordained minister in churches and taught in schools. I am now on SSD, and I have trouble navigating Medicare and secondary insurance and have had to get the help of the church's national pensions department to get a medication approved that I needed. We cannot treat our less fortunate Oklahomans this way, threatening their access to health care and threatening their lives and the lives of their families. We are not here to judge one another. And, this is exactly what judgment looks like! It is not OK!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kelly	Safety net services actually save money for the state in the long run by keeping these families and individuals out of emergency care. The stats are not new and it's shocking these proposals ignore these facts. Beyond that this is a morally reprehensible set of changes to the rules. Please do not allow this to happen.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Debbie	I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	George	Replace Oklahoma Medicaid with Universal Healthcare, plain and simple. Just do it. We will have a much healthier, productive and prosperous nation if we do. We would be much happier too. Excellent healthcare is a human right.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Glenda	I have always placed children, the elderly and those who cannot, no matter how hard they work, provide enough to eat and get medical care and, especially medicine that would make them well a high priority. It is shameful, considering the amount of corruption in every phase of government, that the people who witness this lack of the basics for so many Oklahomans (teachers, home health nurses, doctors, nurses volunteers in community service) cannot get the politicians and leaders of our state to make the decent choice to help our fellowman. After all Oklahoma is a red state so it would seem the Christian thing to do.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Danielle	As a clinical psychology doctoral intern, one year away from earning my doctorate, I have spent hundreds of hours working with the exact same type of families who will be devastated by the proposed Medicaid work requirements. These are families who do their very best to provide for themselves and their children, often times in the face of physical, mental, and societal challenges that many people cannot even fathom. This proposal does not have the best interest of the PEOPLE of Oklahoma in mind. It certainly does not seem to care about the way that the children of these families will be impacted. Please do not pass this proposal. Not everything is black and white, right and wrong...this is NOT one of those times.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Robert	This proposal is shameful. As a representative of the people of Oklahoma it is your duty to take care of ALL Oklahomans no less the weakest among us. I have seen first hand the strife of these families this Proposal would target. My family is fortunate not to require the services of a our special needs Nephew, But I want we will be a voice for those not as fortunate. I urge that be your position as well.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Winifred	I am a retired RN who worked with Medicaid recipients. No. I am retired and volunteer with elderly people. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. People in this targeted population will be more likely to have untreated conditions, resulting in inability to work, care for their children. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
8/30/2018	Jessica	This is in humane please don't cut the budget there are other ways these are children and full grown adults that can't help what they have so please don't approve this thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	William	Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them. Your job should be to help families in OK not hurt them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Marilyn	The work requirement is a hardship for single mother's who have low hourly pay with no benefits depending on SoonerCare for healthcare. Ok provides per capita less Medicaid, so this is a draconian step for saving \$ on those who already have so few resources.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Nathan	All the most destructive plagues of humanity have aoread rapidly through the poorer communities with inadequate health care. It sooner care is for the poorer community. Then removing it actually presents a threat to the health and welfare of all citizens regardless of any other factors.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Onreka	Keeping this short and to the point, I would like to say that this will hurt many already struggling people who are unable to afford health care if they are not covered by SoonerCare. This decision will negatively impact many lives to include the children of these parents/caregivers. I urge you to reconsider this proposal and consider those who will fall victim to a decision that is beyond their control. This is not the best decision for those who are counting on those who are supposed to make decisions to protect them and not to hurt them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Lisa	Please keep SoonerCare so that many Oklahomans can have access to good healthcare that would otherwise not be available to them because of cost. Everyone deserves good healthcare, regardless of economic status. Please help make this possible by allowing SoonerCare adequate funding to meet the needs of all who rely on it. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kimberly	I depend on medical (SoonerCare) for my health care needs. Without it I would not be able to go to the doctor or get my 10-12 medications.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Jeff	Taking away healthcare from people that need it most because they're poor is cruel and it's unOklahoman. The People of Oklahoma will no longer tolerate the cruelty of Fallin Administration and the Oklahoma GOP. Oklahomans deserve better government and compassionate care until the disabled, elderly and needy can improve their lives. Search your hearts and do the right thing. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jessica	I'm confused. Are you going to pay for daycare so these parents can work? You'll also have to pay for in-home care for those taking care of their elderly parents. Are you going to help these people find jobs? Buy them a car and cover their insurance and gas? This state is run by pro-life Christians who don't want to pay for sex education or birth control, and when that leads to more children needing to rely on state assistance to stay healthy, stay ALIVE, they want to take it away. We are one of the worst states for education, so how are these people even supposed to be qualified enough to find jobs that pay enough to make it worth going to work? This whole thing is despicable.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Robert	Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. Please withdraw this ill advised, harmful plan.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Joe	I hope you will avoid making life harder than it already is for people on SoonerCare. Friends of mine have been able to avoid indebtedness that they could not handle because SoonerCare helped with medical bills. But people who are chronically ill, who care for children or relatives, or cannot work for other reasons will be harmed by reduction in Medicaid help. Please increase aid for our low-income people instead of threatening to take some of it away.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Natalie	I am a licensed master of social work and only work with SoonerCare clients. This is only going to make our situation worse in Oklahoma. Increasing funding for mental health and rehabs would make a more positive impact. Eliminating healthcare is never a good option. All of my adult clients need this support and would only contribute to the homeless population if their services were cut. It will cost us more to house these people in jails than it would to provide healthcare services. Please stop this mandatory work order.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Kelsey	Please reconsider this bill.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/30/2018	Jeannie	Please reconsider your decision regarding further reduction of Medicaid Waiver services in Oklahoma. Vulnerable citizens will not be able to afford their doctor visits and medicines and living expenses as well. I myself am paying such a high medical insurance premium I can't afford to go to the doctor. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Ashley	It is at my upmost concern that the Sooner Care issue is addressed. It is my understanding that without Soonercare, many families will not have access to healthcare, mental and physical. Please do the right thing for that families that you advocate for in Oklahoma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Jennifer	This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. You will be taking away and adding more cost.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/30/2018	Barbara	Protect families ! Do not make this change!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Sandra	I am a health care provider. Please support Oklahomans! If Medicaid is cut with the current unacceptable proposal we are raising medical costs! This proposal wants folks to work more hours. Fine but low wage jobs don't offer health care or sick leave! If they work more hours they are not eligible for Sooner care because they make too much money! Folks then get sicker because of a lack of access to health care. This forces them to end up in overburdened emergency rooms with more serious illnesses. If parents cannot tend to their young children's health because they have no sick leave with minimum wage job our children get sicker, often effecting long term health. Further who will pay for child care? The parent with their low wage part time job? Fact: low wage jobs hire part time staff. The State is then fully participating in child neglect	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Nicole H	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This is a stigmatizing proposal. People who need SoonerCare are already at a disadvantage in our society. We should not be requiring them to take on more pressure - - that is, the pressure of securing the proper number of employment/volunteer hours to keep their health care coverage. Health care should be a basic human right, not one that could	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		disappear because of a lack of hours worked. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would result in many people losing their health coverage, which in turn would lead to more bankruptcies and even more deaths. We must stop tying health care to employment requirements. It should be a basic human right available to all. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
8/31/2018	David	I am opposed to the proposed rules requiring Medicaid recipients to either maintain employment or participate in qualified training. The proposed requirements place an undue burden on this population that will only exacerbate their poverty! My opposition stems from a perspective that many who receive Medicaid already work, and for those that don't they need the access to health care (i.e., they are elderly, children or too sick to work). Children in families impacted by these new rules should go without medical care! Adults impacted by these new rules will likely lose access to any health care, as they will earn too much by working to qualify for Sooner Care, yet they will not earn enough to afford health care otherwise. (And, let's be realistic, most of their employers will not offer them health care.) Additionally, the proposed rules will increase administrative costs of Sooner Care in an unspecified amount... With our Bridges crumbling, our education system underfunded, and our prisons being overcrowded and underfunded, this seems to not only be a low priority but also a waste of funds!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Annie	So many Vulnerable Oklahomans depend on the SoonerCare program to be able to make it through the month without having to make a choice between meds or food. Please don't stop or change this very necessary program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Marilynn	The policy to require adult applicants for Medicaid to meet work requirements is predicated on the stereotype that people are poor because they are unwilling to work. The facts do not support that assumption. Our very low unemployment rate, 4% in April, suggests that Oklahoma's poor are underpaid, not unemployed. The SNAP-food stamp program serves families with incomes below 133% of the poverty level, the poorest of the poor. Among that population at any given time around 70% of non-elderly adults receiving food stamps work. These are the adults most likely to need Medicaid. The food stamp program currently has work requirements for many adult	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		recipients. Implementing a similar program through Medicaid would be duplicative. These people work at jobs that obviously pay little. Such jobs often employ people for limited hours with few if any benefits. These employees may not know from week to week when or if they will work. Their incomes fluctuate from day to day. They may be told that they don't need to come back if they call in sick or call in to report their child is sick and cannot go to school or child care. Thus, one month they may work at one place be out of work a week or so and be working at another place the next month. Maintaining work-driven eligibility for this population will be very labor intensive and burdensome to the recipients whose work hours conflict with the office hours for eligibility and may require transportation they do not have. Medicaid benefits are often sought after the fact. Adults arrive in the emergency room in full labor before the birth of a child having had no prenatal care, others come suffering from a stroke or an aneurysm, or having been in a serious accident, or bent over in severe pain and passing blood eventually diagnosed as having stage 4 colon cancer for example. They have no insurance and are often sicker because they have had no health care prior to the crisis. The hospital initiates a Medicaid application to cover the cost of care. Such a system results in all of us paying more for health care as hospitals and other healthcare entities must adjust all their charges to cover their expenses. Oklahoma does have a serious poverty problem. The poverty rate in Oklahoma in 2016 was 16.3% ranking us 42nd in the USA. There is indeed something very wrong with the picture of having a very low unemployment rate and a high poverty rate, particularly when one considers that the poverty rate formula established in the 1960s is out of date and does not relate to the income necessary to support an individual much less a family in 2018. According to MIT's living wage calculator, an individual in Oklahoma needs an income of \$10.52 per hour working 40 hours per week to earn a living wage. In comparison, the poverty rate for an individual is the equivalent of \$5 per hour, the minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour. Medicaid, food stamps, and the child care supplement programs are wage supplements for businesses that either cannot or will not pay a living wage. In many instances, small businesses in Oklahoma fall into that "cannot pay" category. Providing health care services through Medicaid for low-income employees undergirds those small businesses by keeping their employees healthier and thus allowing them to be more productive. A far more productive use of Medicaid would be implementing the Medicaid enhancement program that would support healthier workers and provide stability for health care availability particularly in rural Oklahoma.	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		We have a very broken health care system and a very broken employment system but the proposal to require adults needing Medicaid to work, to cover medical care cost solves neither.	
8/31/2018	James	I would respectfully ask that you re-examine your efforts to cut SoonerCare for parents that don't report working enough hours per week. My family and I have been blessed enough to not need SoonerCare services thus far in our lives. However, we have a child with Autism and know too well the specific challenges that families can face with the loss of a job or coverage. Your proposal seems to ignore many areas that include specific conditions that can affect a family and will remove coverage from many Oklahomans. Creating a monitoring agency or system will increase administrative costs and diminish funds that should be used to cover more Oklahoma citizens. The proposal can easily be compared to performing surgery with a machete instead of a scalpel. I urge you to review, revise, and consider your actions as they impact Oklahomans. Think of the consequences if even one child loses coverage. What if that child can no longer have access to medicine or proper healthcare? Thank you in advance for your attention and action.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	John	The plan to impose work requirements on SoonerCare recipients is ill conceived and detrimental to the overall well bring of Oklahoma. In comparison to other states Oklahoma already has a large percentage of the state population who are uninsured. This contributes to low health status rankings that put the sate in an unfavorable position. I work each day with families who are caring for family members with disabilities and navigating the bureaucratic system proposed would impose an additional burden on already stressed families. Further the erratic jobs, where hours and workdays change from week to week,create a catch 22 for recipients. We should be changing SoonerCare to cover more citizens of Oklahoma not fewer. Healthy citizens are a critical component of a growing state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	W.F.	I urge OHCA to review and reconsider the implications and drivers of this short sighted proposal. Infrastructure costs to implement a system allegedly designed to save money are real. Who is getting the contract? Follow the money. This proposal reeks of special interests and we are the national guinea pig. A distraction from true solution exploration, this proposal needs to be scrapped in favor of developing and funding more compassionate, sustainable and smarter ways of	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		addressing the health and healthcare needs of vulnerable Oklahomans.	
8/31/2018	Sharon	Able bodied people assume that everyone on any kind of financial assistance is lazy and just looking for a hand-out. Well, that's not exactly true. Yes, there are some system riders but most people are just trying to get by. When you have worked all your life and an injury or illness makes it impossible to return to your job, you will take any kind of help you can get and pray you get well enough to find a job. Some parents work two or more jobs just to keep food on the table and a roof over their children and simply cannot afford any kind of health care. There are people that are simply to infirmed to do anything except hang on to life and have not choice but to become dependent. Our state has always provided for these kinds of people and to abandon them now borders on cruelty.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Anna	Cutting medicade will only serve to increase the pain and desperation of poor, sick, and powerless.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Sarah	I would like for this to be withdrawn. Health Care is very costly, Insurance for the average wage earner does not cover what is necessary to raise a child. Yes, there are dead beat parents and they are the ones that need to be investigated. Let us not harm our children. They are the future of OKLAHOMA. Those who administer programs are overworked, but it is a vital part of accessing the benefit. The handicap should not suffer from loss of medicaid either. I plead with you who makes the decisions to not follow through on this! Find an incentive for your citizens to work more and more efficiently, but do not harm the children and the handicap.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Phyllis	DO NOT TAKE AWAY THE SOONER CARE HEALTH PROGRAM. THE WAIVER IS A TERRIBLE IDEA.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Marilia	The percentage of irregular jobs in OK is rising - not falling. These people have families. Denying early care is not only inhumane, but costly because if detected later, treatment is much harder. This measure is in line with other absurd health care proposals and brings to light a fact that bewilders the world: how does the USA manage to have the most expensive health care in the world and push so many people into bankruptcy? All the prices are artificial, policies are not inclusive and this is a time-bomb.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/31/2018	Raymond	This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Lizette	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Ray	I don't believe that this fair because people should be covered regardless of age and work requirements. Please leave the elderly alone. Most of them helped us get to where we are today.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Gary	If you follow the proposal, you will put some people in jeopardy, those that are mentally ill and those with chronic conditions, of losing health care that they are in need of and that could hurt them so much that they can die prematurely!! Please take this into consideration!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Aaron	I know many who struggle everyday to balance their budget with food and the costs of healthcare. It's a shame that many of these hard-working folk have to do this already, but this policy will exacerbate that situation even more. This policy does not change the fact that work is scarce and pays very little for most Oklahoma citizens. Worst of all, it's the children who will pay for this disastrous policy. No one should have to fear the costs of healthcare. I am fortunate to be a member of the Cherokee Nation. I could not imagine the stress of not having that safety net. I wish every citizen of Oklahoma could feel so assured.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Jan	What percentage of people on medicaid have mental health issues/chronic health issues? Can anyone provide that information? Do you promote alternative health insurances like Samaritan or Medishare?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Gary	Seems like we're proposing to punish the majority, for the actions of a few. There are many legitimate reasons why some of those receiving public assistance aren't working. To apply a boiler plate solution to such a complicated issue will only make matters worse.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/31/2018	Martha	This is a terrible idea. Why would anyone want to deny health coverage to children (or adults for that matter!)? Please do not add a work requirement to SoonerCare!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Teresa	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes, I have an autoimmune inflammatory bowel disease.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I pay a significant amount in state taxes and this would be an inefficient use of my taxpayer money. Right now, our Medicaid system is one of the most efficient in the country. Adding more bureaucracy to OHCA would make it more costly to operate and less useful to Oklahomans in need. Too many jobs held by low income people set irregular schedules based on employer need that is outside the employees' ability to control week to week. One week they may work 18 hours and another 25 hours, but there is little predictability. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. People who are served by non-profits where I volunteer may lose access to healthcare services and thus be unable to be healthy enough to work or care for their children. If children have to go to foster care because of an ill parent, taxpayers have to pay for that and it is difficult on the child.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Work requirements in states that did not expand Medicaid under the ACA will force more people off of Medicaid and leave them with insufficient income to purchase coverage on the exchange. . People who have access to Medicaid have access to healthcare. They can get treatment for communicable diseases like the flu and not be out in the community and give it to others, including me and my employees.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Meagan	Do please remember that this debate is not just about insurance but also about people. People who already lead difficult lives, people who have children, people who face multiple obstacles every day. The people in this debate are not "others" or "they". You are talking about neighbors and friends. That being said, this feels like a forgone conclusion. So, I would like to offer some ideas: offer a grace period before removing people from SoonerCare, require monthly hours instead of weekly, create a lower level of coverage if requirements are not met instead of taking coverage away completely.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
8/31/2018	Vanessa	I do not support withdrawing Soonercare from those families not meeting a work requirement. I do believe in weeding out those people who are capable of working but are not. There may be reasons why a capable person is not working. Do they have reliable transportation? Can they repair cars broken down? Are they well enough to work. You'll make whole families suffer if you take away Soonercare from them. Have you seen families struggling to make ends meet? I have. They try to pay high rent for slum lord apartments or houses that need repaired never fixed. I've seen children do with out food. It's disheartening. Get out & see for yourself before imposing withdrawing a program so essential to these families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Adrienne	Please protect SoonerCare for Oklahoma families. I am a health care worker who sees many individuals and families on SoonerCare. They are hardworking, loving families that need assistance. Please help stop spreading a message of hate these families and instead expand how we can help our fellow Oklahomans. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Hilary	Work requirements are bad for Oklahoma and for Oklahomans. They add to the cost of our Medicaid system far and away above any amounts that might be saved by kicking a few people off of Medicaid Also, they will increase burden on our already struggling rural hospitals	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Rhoda	I think that giving someone a "hand up" with Medicaid is a far better solution in helping Oklahomans improve their lives. Please don't create work requirements that will take Medicaid from families that are just trying to do the best they can. I think we can work toward helping families get off of the Medicaid roles in other ways (job coaching, help with childcare, family planning, etc.)	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Margie	I became a single parent after my husband died, and I know something of the difficulties of caring for children and having to be out of the home. My daughter is a single parent who is fortunate enough works full time. Her schedule though is such that she would not be able to do this without my support in providing some care and transportation for my school age grandchild. From these experiences I know the difficulties is trying to keep up with school schedules and changing work schedules. To require individuals to work to be eligible for SoonerCare seems to me to be counterproductive. Having worked in a hospital, I know that the poor that are often forced to use ER service. This is not cost efficient for the hospitals or the government. Please rethink the changes that are being proposed.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Glenda	Time for Oklahoma congress to think about he vulnerable in Oklahoma. Healthcare should be a right not a privilege. Take care of Oklahomans in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Eleanor	I wonder when, exactly, Oklahomans became so mean spirited. It's easy to punish the mostly invisible poor, but rush to help in a very visible disaster. This proposal will not save money, but will make Oklahomans less healthy, less productive, and more desperate. Please, think, before you proceed with this absurd proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Rita	I am very concerned that if this proposal should pass, it would be putting vulnerable people and all of society at risk. I hope the proposal does not pass.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Rick	This program of work requirements strikes me as “If you will work for food, I’ll feed you maybe. But, I truly don’t want to.” Politics, sadly, has become a game of following the money. Before this program goes into effect, could the state government please provide a list of those contractors most likely to be awarded the contract for tracking which recipients are meeting the work or “community engagement” requirements? It would, I feel, clarify matters quite a lot. Concerning the “community engagement” activities: I believe that if labor is traded for anything of value, remuneration is required. How will these activities be “paid” for? How will FICA withholdings be calculated and that sort of thing? I believe that adding a work requirement for receiving SoonerCare is to promote an unhealthy state. The presentation that those that can work would lose any health benefit because they work is a Catch-22 to be avoided, not promoted. In this very unhealthy state, it strikes me as pathetic to damage those who are already most damaged. SoonerCare and MediCare are supposed to be promoting health, not work. The programs are certainly not for promoting the lining of pockets.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Lisa	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). diabetic, high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, lymphadema, sleep apnea, kidney failure-stage4. I work for a non-profit and we try to help those that need help. Without medical insurance that number would triple at least. . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. it would leave so many children uninsured, it would be a horrible drain on already tight budgets/ it would cause some that are barely making ends meet fall even further behind, causing homelessness, and severe poverty and even premature deaths in some cases.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		their coverage. it would leave so many children uninsured, it would be a horrible drain on already tight budgets/ it would cause some that are barely making ends meet fall even further behind, causing homelessness, and severe poverty and even premature deaths in some cases.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. daycare is horribly expensive, sometimes it saves our government money for some to stay home and take care of the children, and it would leave so many children uninsured, it would be a horrible drain on already tight budgets/ it would cause some that are barely making ends meet fall even further behind, causing homelessness, and severe poverty and even premature deaths in some cases.. my children had soonercare even when I could not. It was not thier fault I could not afford medical insurance back then. It would have been impossible for me to care for my children properly without Soonercare. Even working I could not afford it.	
8/31/2018	Betty	Oklahoma's children are already at the bottom regarding health, healthy outcomes and a healthy future. Please don't take SoonerCare away from these children. It will only make an already bad situation worse.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Ryan	I do not support the proposal to add a work requirement to Medicaid. First, the proportion of Medicaid enrollees who could reasonably be expected to work is very low. The work requirement will not grow a work force. Instead, it is more likely that potential work force members will leave Oklahoma for a state that is instead expanding Medicaid. There, they can work more without the absurd cost of health insurance. Oklahoma is turning down 94% federal funding by not expanding Medicaid, like only 17 other states. Second, those on Medicaid who could work include single parents. Risking their health by adding a barrier to access (because they are a population known not to buy health insurance or see a doctor for preventative care) would only hurt Oklahomans. Opposing the deserving poor (because Oklahoma's Medicaid truly only covers the poorest or neediest) is un-Christian, unethical, and cowardly.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Margaret	The Republicans demand all the time that welfare only be for the most vulnerable. Well, who are the most vulnerable if not those with chronic illnesses? Forcing people to work with conditions that could be made worse by working or asking them to do jobs that they physically cannot do is cruel. Forcing parents to work more hours to qualify and then denying them coverage for making too much money is a Catch-22 and also cruel. Why is it always the weakest, most politically powerless people that Republicans like to	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		deride and deny help? How about sometime Republicans deny help and money to the oil companies and other businesses in this state?	
8/31/2018	Paige	I understand your efforts to curb costs. This is not the way. Your principles will end up costing our state in administrative costs and in tertiary costs due to no primary care access. Let's talk to principle. Do you actually know anyone Poor? Do you understand that what you are condemning is often out of their control? Often low-wage jobs lack in reliable work hours, and making up for hours that were cut the week before makes them lose childcare. What about the catch 22 of making too much money when they work the required hours but don't earn enough money to afford health care on their own. These are just a couple examples that I can personally attest to, and I know there are more. Please think with your head and your heart when changing policy. There are better ways to steward state money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
8/31/2018	Jennifer	Have you heard of kicking a man when he's down? From what I understand of this proposal, that is exactly what will happen if it become the rule. Who really suffers when you take away benefits from a family? Their children. Healthcare is simply unaffordable for low income families. They are just trying to feed their children. We do need to weed out people who take advantage of the system, but to make a blanket ruling about work is unfair and hurts the wrong people. Do the investigation to find out who really shouldn't be getting the benefits instead of punishing all.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Kimberly	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is not a good policy and the proposal should be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Anonymous	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Tameeka	This will only increase the hospitalization of kids. Which will cost more because you are giving low-income parents	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		no other alternative to healthcare besides taking their kids to the ER rooms. The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Anonymous	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Angela	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and puts them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes parents more likely to lose employment, putting families and children at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. I urge you to reject this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Anonymous	“The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected.”	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/4/2018	Lindsey	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is harmful policy and the proposal should be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
9/4/2018	Anonymous	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected.”	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/5/2018	Angie	“The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected.”	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Katie	Children should be provided medical care NO MATTER THE ACTIVITIES OF THEIR PARENTS. Children are powerless in determining how many hours their parents work, and for the sake of Oklahoma's children, I ask you to not cut coverage for children based on whether their parents "deserve it". (By the way, all people deserve medical care, in my opinion.) Cutting corners on children's health is unacceptable! Finally, this proposal is vague enough that people won't know how it will affect them until it does. Please do better by our state. Please preserve SoonerCare. Please withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Becky	This proposal is ill conceived and fated to harm those whom need our protection. As legislatures and a state, why would we chose to punish low income families or those without jobs, label them as lazy, and dehumanize them. We would be putting them in a no-win situation and increasing the ranks of the impoverished in our state. I'd like to think that Oklahoma would use a more evidenced based approach to this type of legislation and not move us backward yet again. Please stop this legislation!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Suzy	I am deeply concerned about the new work requirement proposal for Medicaid recipients. First off - I believe health care should be available to everyone - that is shouldn't just be a privilege for some. This proposal takes critical health care away from some of our most vulnerable citizens and will end up costing us more in the long run when they delay care and end up in the emergency room for conditions that could have been prevented or should have been treated earlier. Research shows that work requirements like these have little if any consequence on	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		the overall cost of coverage and can actually create additional health problems for the people involved. The proposed Medicaid work requirements will hurt our state and some of our most vulnerable residents. In addition, I understand there is consideration of hiring an outside firm to monitor whether people are eligible or not. We already have a system in place to do this. This would be a total waste of taxpayer money.	
9/6/2018	Mary	Please reconsider the harsh Sooner Care proposal. Thousands of Oklahomans will suffer needlessly if this proposal passes. Don't we already rank low enough as a state, when it comes to the health of our citizens?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Deborah	I understand the sentiment behind a work or volunteer requirement for Medicaid. I don't want my tax dollars going to healthy, able-bodied people. But this is a bad idea. It will snare too many people and children who genuinely need Medicaid. Don't do this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Mary	Please keep sooner care for it e children and citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Stephanie	Please do not disrespect the children in this State!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Martha	I do Not agree that parents should need to disclose their work or volunteer hours	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Sarah	I urge the decision makers on this issue of work requirements for Sooner Care to NOT approve these requirements. Families and children need access to physical and mental health services and the work requirement doesn't make sense. Some parents and others who qualify currently may not be able to work and those who do go to work may lose their eligibility. So many ailments (mental and physical) need early intervention and if there is no way to afford early intervention, the problems become insurmountable and COSTLY. Please help Oklahomans stay on health insurance; do not put this absurd requirement on their backs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Tillie	I know too many single mothers in Oklahoma that need Sooner care. At the end of the day basic preventive care is	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		essential in actually saving the state money, so why cut benefits or take this program away? You're not taking care of Oklahomans if you go ahead with your plans with Sooner Care.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Ellen	Please protect the availability of health care for all oklahomans including the poor, disabled and anyone unable to provide this for themselves.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Lori	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. Full time employee . Case by case situation as I know of some parents who are the caregiver for their child and if they work the child is endangered. I also know of some parents who can work. . It could put high risk children in danger. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Children or high risk adults would be in danger. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Children and high risk adults would be in danger. . Many of my high needs students were helped with this program for health and behavioral mental health services.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Lise	Medicaid is an important foundation for keeping Oklahoma workers and their children healthy. The work requirement policy would increase government and costs and would put health care for children, people with mental illness, and people with chronic conditions at risk. I am opposed to the work requirement and I would urge you to reconsider this policy that affects our working poor. It seems cruel and inhuman especially when you look past the justification for the program to the facts.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Jenifer	I have long relied on soonercare for myself, during pregnancy, and my children. We struggle to make ends meet, we can not afford private health care. Please reconsider these changes. Don't put innocent children's health at risk. All children deserve healthcare, unfortunately not all parents can provide that.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Ashley	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Losing coverage would lead to greater mental, emotional, and economic hardships.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. People (including members of my family) already in a difficult position would be worse off with this proposal. . I do NOT	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This catch-22 creates unnecessary stress and uncertainty for my vulnerable family members. . SoonerCare has provided needed medical care for my young neice and brother.	
9/6/2018	Milley	Oklahoma Medicaid's work requirements proposal would hurt the state and its residents. this proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Paul	This is a shame that this is even being considered. We as an educated healthy work force is something that we all should be striving for. This reduces costs for everyone. If you are not healthy then how do you expect someone to seek work or to be able to succeed in school. If they don't succeed in school then you they can't get a job that is steady and the cycle just continues. Obviously you don't remember what it was like before the Affordable Health Care Act when the Emergency Room waiting rooms were overflowing with these same people who that was their only access to medical care. I think that you would be hard pressed to show me how it is cheaper for me to pay an Emergency Room visit than a Doctor's Office visit.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Carla	Please save SoonerCare! Everyone deserves good health and should not have to struggle to be well.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Sue	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Fewer children would receive needed services because their parents would have less time to bring them. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Fewer children would receive needed services. We already see families struggling to do their best for their children stretched to the max. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . We provide therapy for many children that have SoonerCare as primary or secondary coverage.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Regina	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). My step-grandson that is 22 years old has no other family and	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		has several mental health disorders. If he lost his SoonerCare I do not know how he would be able to get his medications and see his counselors. Not to mention well care.. I work full time and a part time job. I also care for my 96 year old father.. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. How would child care be provided for these single parent homes that have to work/volunteer? More unsupervised children on the street getting into trouble with drugs etc. Another generation of uneducated people with opiodo addiction.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Not in the best interest of a healthy community. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . They are able to get medications and to preventive health care.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Desiree	Please give Medicaid back. My daughter & I really need it. We've lost so much & have struggled not having Medicaid. It helps so much. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Elizabeth	I believe that removing a key infrastructure of health from many of our most vulnerable neighbors is unwise. When folks are unable to jump through high hoops that Oklahomans who have not ever relied on soonerCare set up for them, we are punishing people based on policy made without concern for reality, without full knowledge, and most critically without empathy. As you consider the proposal to implement changes in work requirements please consider realistic measures that do not unduly push out those already struggling to stay in the game at all.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Rhonda	I strongly urge you to defeat this bill, as it is very punitive to the poor and disabled. If people don't have healthcare, they cannot become contributing members of society. Many single moms cannot make enough money to pay for childcare. Can we not help the least of us?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Richard	Many children in our state are dependent on a parent to respond to their extensive needs, when they are expressed. In another era, the common belief was that a father could work and earn income to support the family, while the mother stayed home and available to meet the needs of the children. Special needs children could be supported in these homes. Families that qualify for Medicaid are all extremely poor. There is not the idealized father out working and completely providing for the family. The	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		expenses of health care contribute to the impoverished lifestyle of families struggling to meet the needs of their children. This proposal is mean spirited, designed to punish the poor for their failures, with hopes of forcing adults with various disadvantages, disabilities, and dependent children to show their worthiness to insensitive legislators or lose insurance. Stop this blaming of the our citizens experiencing hard times!!!!!!	
9/6/2018	Linda	All people should have access to medical care - but especially the poor.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	John	Please do not tie SoonerCare to the number of hours that recipients work. Many recipients have mental illness, and are working as much as they can. Others are mentally healthy, but work at low wage jobs with unpredictable hours and the likelihood of being laid off with short notice. But more than that, SoonerCare itself is necessary for many to find and retain work by providing them with care for conditions they have, care that allows them to work even if they don't always get enough hours. This proposal will create new bureaucratic requirements both for recipients and for the government itself, and those will cost money and time. Please do not pass this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Carlotta	I am a young mother newly married caring for two kids and one of them is a newborn. I am a stay at home mom and my husband has ssi but it's only 750 a month. Neither one of us can afford health insurance. He needs medication for his cerebral palsy and I need medication to help with my anxiety and chronic depression as well as ptsd and therapy as well. If things are changed how can we get these things on a limited income raising two kids? How can we see a dr without insurance? How can our kids get in to see a pediatrician without insurance? Please don't change things on people who need things to stay the same to ensure that we can have a way to keep our physical and mental health where it needs to be.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Jody	Thank you for an opportunity to share my family's concerns about the executive order and House Bill 2932, which direct the Oklahoma HealthCare Authority to require SoonerCare recipients to document work, job training or education activities. SoonerCare recipients who are able to work are already working, most at part-time, minimum-wage jobs with no health insurance and unstable incomes. They are trying to get ahead. Any increase in income is likely to disqualify these Oklahomans for SoonerCare with no way to afford private insurance. Others will simply lose coverage because they don't know how to fill out the new paperwork required by a new layer of bureaucracy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		In fact, Kaiser Family Foundation estimates that between 1.4 and 4 million eligible individuals will lose health care coverage based on the work requirements in four states, including Oklahoma, who have received approval for waivers requiring work requirements. Approval means we could do it, not that we should. A decision that results in loss of essential healthcare is not necessary, prudent or humane. It would also be a burden on emergency rooms and hospitals who will be further stressed by individuals once qualified for SoonerCare. This may actually be the goal – to reduce costs by dropping the number of previously qualified people on the SoonerCare rolls. We don't feel good about this and would rather see special interests pay more of their fair share of taxes so the very lowest income people in our state could continue to receive healthcare at the same level. Furthermore, an analysis by Fitch estimates that Kentucky work requirements resulted in a 40% increase in Medicaid costs. That is not the result we want in Oklahoma. It is very difficult to qualify for SoonerCare in our state – something that our family realized when our self-employed son received a letter stating his income was too low to qualify for Affordable Care insurance. The letter said, "Your state should provide Medicaid for you, but has opted not to do that." Oklahoma needs more people with adequate healthcare, not less, if we want to build a job-ready workforce and encourage economic development and businesses relocation and expansion. Decent health care, prevention and early detection are still critical to a good quality of life and ability to be financially self-sufficient in our state. Please say no to work requirements and yes to an investment in healthcare and quality of life in Oklahoma.	
9/6/2018	Kent	I am writing to voice my opposition to the proposed work requirements for Medicaid patients. This burdensome and expanded bureaucratic requirement will harm those that need it most. Quite frankly, I find it preposterous to even consider this when we as a state have not expanded Medicaid as many other states have done, which brings home more of our tax dollars and improves health outcomes. But specifically about this proposal, this will put medicaid patients in a catch 22 of having to work to get care provided to them, but then lose it if the same work pushes them over the earning limits thus forcing them off of medicaid, even though they still may earn well below poverty line. Those also affected by this proposal may work a job without a regular schedule, working long hours in one 2 week period but not much in the other two week period, which could eliminate them from medicaid under the proposed rules. I also worry what this will do to our hospitals (especially rural) and their finances. Having to	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		provide more uncompensated care may hasten the closing of hospitals. In a state that consistently ranks among the lowest in the country in regards to health, this proposal will only make matters worse. We should first be talking about expanding medicaid before we impose difficult, burdensome, and onerous work requirements that largely already work and who desperately need assistance with their health.	
9/6/2018	Crystal	I am opposed to the new work requirement for SoonerCare. Please don't add this layer of bureaucracy and cost just to punish poor people. A much better approach would be to invest in jobs in our state for everyone, including those with disabilities and to understand that people have a desire to work already. We just need to have opportunities. Taking away health care is the WRONG thing to do.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Dottie	I raised two kids on SoonerCare. I would not have been able to afford to treat my daughter for her major depression .. I might have lost her to drugs or suicide. I have Bachelor in Science from the University of Oklahoma. I worked full time at Norman Public Schools and both my children graduated from there also, attending the same university, on scholarships. Oklahoma is a great state because of programs like sooner care. Limiting this service is only going to hurt our future. It will also hurt the children of Oklahoma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Conna	Please don't do anything that might reduce the number of Oklahomans who currently qualify for Medicare. It is a lifeline for the poor and we have many poor in Oklahoma. if work requirements mean that parents will be unable to qualify for Medicaid, but still unable to afford private insurance, the effect will be devastating to them and their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Conna	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This could cause our pediatric population to lose benefits because their parents do not fulfill the requirement. Although I can see some reasons behind this those affected will not always be the parents but the children. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Yes. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . I am a pediatric nurse practitioner and this coverage affords parents that many times do not have healthcare themselves, the opportunity to have healthcare for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Paula	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		year. I support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Might possibly make them more responsibly in meeting their family needs!. I support this proposal. Some people would seek a job and assist in caring for their family instead of expecting the government to. The working poor don't get the luxury of free healthcare why should their taxes pay for those that choose to not work?. I support this proposal. Place more people in the workforce. Make people more autonomous.. It has caused increased emergency room visits and less reimbursement for our rural hospitals. Has caused a Socialist belief in our community that we the working class should support those that choose not to work!	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Patricia	Please do not pass this bill. It has all sorts of problems! How can it be possible if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare? Also people will lose coverage, this is not the direction coverage needs to go, it needs to be more inclusive. IT sounds like you are just trying to make things harder for families that are already having a hard time!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Susan	Save SoonerCare!! Protect our families, children, elders!! Only healthy folks are able to work. Keep our low income families healthy!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Elizabeth	I oppose a one size fits all approach to determining eligibility for soonercare. As a parent, I know how difficult it can be to work with children at home, and daycare is not affordable for everyone. This proposal will put further burdens on people who are already struggling. Please reconsider.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Rebecca	Please stop this proposal. These are not people mooching off the government but rather people who are working to care for their families. This is outrageous, callous and typical money grubbing red state behavior.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Tresa	Without sooner care several families could not afford much needed medical bills test or dental care. Our state needs this program for all our citizens. It is a very much in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Lois	My grandchildren is on soonercare. Without it they would have no insurance. I'm on a limited income and would not have enough income to put them on private insurance. Please leave it alone. Until you have been in this situation you don't know what it's like.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
9/6/2018	Tammy	Protect Soonercare/Medicaid and Social Security and medicare. Without these there would be a lot of people homeless and no medical insurance, especially in Oklahoma. The town of Ada has lots of retirees and disabled people that depends on these services? My son and I are the recipient of these services and we also try to work part time because we are disabled and couldn't work a full time job. Please help protect these services!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Carol	Ridiculous suggestion. Businesses have enough employee issues without the additional time commitment and additional resources needed to properly accommodate unless the person has special skills and can work from home. Of course those that can work and have transportation shouldn't be discriminated against nor not hired based on their limitations if they could be accommodate but then we already have that requirement so this is just busy work for incompetent and lazy law makers.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Ashley	As a resident of rural Oklahoma, these work requirements would be harmful to the residents of Oklahoma. I'm also a teacher and these work requirements would only hurt a large majority of my students too. If the parents who are on Medicaid can't work due to illness, or being a caregiver, or going back to school...how is taking away their health coverage going to make them healthier? I hope Oklahoma does the right thing and does not implement work requirements.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Kris	I agree that any Medicaid recipients should have to meet the job requirements. Our state budget is in turmoil and there comes a time when the state has to say enough is enough. There is no reason a person should be able to stay on state assistance and not be expected to make some type of effort to better their own financial status and quit milking the pockets of hard working honest Oklahoma people. If people would spend as much time bettering their own financial status as they do figuring out how to milk hand outs they would find a job.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Linda	Please withdraw the Medicaid work requirements proposal. So many of our deserving, and impoverished Oklahoma Sooner Care recipients will lose their health care. Working, low-income parents deserve to know that their children will have health coverage. Everyone deserves Health Care. It should be a right, not a benefit. Let's also pay people a living wage.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Connie	Everyone should have health care. Don't be so selfish.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Ariana	The Oklahoma Medicaid work requirement proposal will negatively impact more families than help any. The	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not take into account the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Please remove the work requirement and make healthcare available to Oklahoma's neediest families.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Kathryn	Protect Soonercare!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Tiffany	I work with soonercare patients and families daily. What soonercare does for them is invaluable. Work requirements are flawed thinking. In Oklahoma, finding a job is difficult, finding a job that will pay well is extra difficult, and in many situations these parents will find jobs that will put them over the cut off for soonercare. I can see how this might be seen as a good thing, but there's a huge gap right now for families in this income bracket. Children with working parents need to be cared for during the day and daycare costs are outrageous if you don't qualify for help. On top of that any basic or emergent medical needs could easily put these families right back under a mountain of debt that they'll never recover from. I have patients come to me daily and when I ask why they've stayed away from medical care so long, they always say "I didn't have any insurance so I waited." This is not healthy for these families, and it's down right dangerous in many situations. However, from a budget standpoint, these families who delay basic care will eventually end up in the emergency room needing more extensive and expensive work. It is crucial that Oklahoma families retain basic medical coverage and care through soonercare without complex and often severely limiting restrictions. I've seen what happens in both situations and taking away this coverage will not save the state money.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Julie	Please continue to provide healthcare coverage to children and families in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Teresa	Please protect the most vulnerable of Oklahomans, the working poor. Oklahoma cannot afford to ignore the basic healthcare needs of these people. Make the guidelines of income match the reality of trying to cover the basics of a dignified life. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Megan	We should not be targeting our most vulnerable citizens to make up for the poor funding choices our government	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		officials have made. Any one of us could at any time become ill or disabled. By helping to protect our most vulnerable citizens we ensure a safer community for all.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Jennifer	We are already facing uninsured and under-insured rates among our state that are higher than the national average. Please don't make it more difficult for our fellow Oklahomans to have coverage. This isn't good for them - and it's not good for Oklahoma. We are already in the bottom of almost every important health indicator, and this will only help us continue to race to the bottom. Please don't follow through on this plan. It doesn't serve our citizens or our state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Autumn	Please protect the healthcare coverage of individuals who are living out family values--who are staying home with children to young and sick to care for themselves, who are looking after aging parents, who spend their days protecting other family members--do not take away their healthcare just because their work isn't the type that is listed on IRS forms.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Greg	There should not be a work requirement to qualify for SoonerCare. Families already struggle to make ends meet and health of Oklahomans should not become part of an austerity plan. People will die because they can barely pay rent on minimum wage, much less pay for health care with skyrocketing prices. If you do create a work requirement then at least raise the cutoff limit on wages to qualify for SoonerCare. If a family isn't making 30K or year they should qualify. Thanks for taking the time to read this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Donna	I am a senior citizen who cares about other citizens.. I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This would not affect me but I am relatively sure it will affect some members of my community.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This would not affect me but I am sure it would affect some members of my community.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This would not affect me but would undoubtedly affect some members of my community.. I have not benefited from Sooner Care but I am hoping that others in the community have benefited from SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Zoey	Studies show that greater access to preventative care and public assistance reduces costs long-term. Fewer emergency visits to the hospital and fewer children going hungry at night are both very good things. Protect health insurance for low income families!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Linzi	Please consider the wellbeing of the people of Oklahoma when enacting legislation that affects the health of our state. Healthy parents are better parents, healthy children grow stronger and learn better. We want a strong and vital Oklahoma and that starts with strong and vital Oklahomans!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Janis	The proposed changes to Medicaid are bad for Oklahomans. Not every low income person has reliable transportation to get to a job, particularly in small rural communities. In some of these communities there may not even be jobs available. Given our rural nature our state does not have a good public transportation system. Also the new proposed changes will create a new bureaucracy for the state to manage and for citizens to try and navigate through. Many low income citizens do not have reliable internet access.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Wendy	Please do not cut Soonercare. It is important for everyone, especially children, to have access to health care without unreasonable stipulations. These changes will be too costly and many children and lower income adults will suffer as a result.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Tracy	This is not the direction we need to be going with Medicaid in Oklahoma. As it is, we already cover tragically too few people, and guidelines and nearly impossible to meet. Health care in this state is near the bottom nationwide, and this is a big reason. Adding a work requirement will only make this worse, and place undue strain on caregivers, and those who have chronic pain and illness, yet haven't been able to get certified as disabled under the rigorous process that is in place currently. This is a cruel and unnecessary, if not unconstitutional requirement, and will likely end the state in litigation. More people will receive less care, and will end up in emergency rooms, with more serious illnesses, as a bigger burden on the community in the long run, because of this stupid, misguided, draconic policy. For God's sake, do the right thing.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Kennt	The proposal to remove medicaid benefits to individuals who cannot meet the work requirements is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. It creates a Catch-22 for parents who by working more hours may loose health care coverage. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. If the State wants to assist the under/unemployed on Medicaid, it should partner with Oklahoma business to provide living-wage jobs that carry employer-supporting healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
9/6/2018	Harlan	I am concerned that every person in Oklahoma has access to health care.. I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This requirement will put an undue hardship on some recipients of SoonerCare and result in some who need this program losing coverage unnecessarily.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Some persons who have children to care for and therefore have difficulty working outside the home would likely lose coverage under the program and yet not be able to afford or not be eligible for other coverage even if they were working.. I have two step-grandchildren covered under the program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Lisa	Protect Sooner Care for families in need. This plan is not acceptable.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Kim	People should not lose SoonerCare (Medicaid) coverage because they do not meet work requirements. There is no evidence that taking coverage away from a person who is unable to work enough hours will either increase work or improve health. Most parents on SoonerCare work, but they have low wage jobs that usually don't offer health insurance. These jobs also have frequent layoffs and inconsistent, fluctuating work hours. Many working parents would be at risk of losing health care coverage under this proposal. Parents would face a Catch-22. If they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they would make too much money to stay covered even though they are still earning below the poverty level. They would no longer have health care options. Oklahoma's uninsured rate is already among the highest in the US. The state, with this proposal, is looking for ways to deny more people of health care coverage. This proposal does not consider that many SoonerCare recipients lack adequate transportation to make it to jobs with more hours. It also does not consider that many recipients are the only caregivers for children and cannot afford child care. This proposal is a threat to health care for thousands of Oklahoma parents and caretakers and should be rejected.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Lani	Please reconsider this measure which, I feel, makes it more difficult on families who are 'on the edge' already.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Aren't we punishing them for working and trying to provide for their families or themselves, instead of encouraging them to do all they can to pay what they can for their healthcare? This is a crisis facing many in our state and nation and we need to find a solution instead of making it more difficult.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Dawn	Please help the medically needy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Amanda	Please accept my comments and concerns about this Medicaid Waiver Proposal. This proposal will be devastating on low income families that are forced to decided whether they should work fewer hours (and make less, but still qualify for SoonerCare), or work more hours, and risk exceeding the income qualifications for SoonerCare. Since Oklahoma chose not to expand Medicaid, there are no other options available for those who cannot afford insurance on the online health insurance market. This flawed proposal will increase the coverage crater even more in Oklahoma. Furthermore, creating this new system of bureaucracy, in a state in which we have regularly had state budget shortfalls and deficits is not fiscally prudent. How will this program successfully be managed? How will it help those who might lose coverage if they don't fill out the correct paperwork? The purpose of Sooner Care is to help low-income families have access to health coverage, but this new proposal will harm and devastate many families instead, without any alternative proposal or assistance for them. What will happen to those families that lose Sooner Care? Please reconsider this proposal. It is not good for Oklahoma.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Kooroush	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Families or persons using SoonerCare already have massive strain on their time whether a single parent or family and often have at best a low paying job with long hours. Forcing this hurdle on persons using SoonerCare needlessly adds additional burden on bread-winners.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Persons in a situation where SoonerCare is needed are often already overburdened. When overburdened, some intended tasks can be missed. Using drastic penalties like losing of coverage is a	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		disproportionate response.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. A family or person who is attempting to better their situation should not be penalized in a way that undermines their progress or the spirit of the program.. For a period of time when I was finishing my degree my family used SoonerCare and SNAP. SoonerCare helped us during my wife's pregnancy and post-pregnancy to visit the ob gyn and pediatrician while SNAP allowed us to provide healthy food to our child. Having this care allowed us to get on our feet and now we no longer need it.	
9/6/2018	Jennie	It is unconscionable to further cut the health coverage of the SoonerCare parents. How can you expect these parents to be able to take good care of their children if they are ill and have no funds to pay for medical care or medication. If the goal is to improve the health of the children, then, the plan to take away the healthcare of their parents is completely counter productive. As a retired registered nurse who worked in public health in Okla City for 32 years, I want my tax dollars to help these families to receive healthcare services!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Kelly	Be assured, I do not now, nor do I ever expect to receive Medicaid. I am writing on behalf of those who do. My child has a disability. I had to spend six years caring for him full time. Had I had work requirements at that time, I would have lost my benefits. (I had health insurance through my husband's employer.) Now I hear that the families who already face restrictive income requirements, will face work hour requirements. Employment is simply not an option for many caregivers and work hour requirements will not change that. It will only target some of our most vulnerable citizens to deny them insurance, and therefore healthcare. Many will become ill and therefore less likely to ever work. It is not fiscally responsible to force more citizens into destitution because of poor health and the lack of medicaid benefits.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/6/2018	Christine	I am concerned about the recommendations outlined in the amendment to the SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Program. The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility seems misguided and would be harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. The background information itself notes that there is good correlation between employment and health. But, one has to be healthy and their dependents must be healthy, to maintain employment. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes parents more likely to lose	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. I believe this is poorly developed policy and the proposal should be rejected.	
9/10/2018	Noemi	The current proposal to implement work/community engagement requirements as a condition of SoonerCare eligibility is misguided and harmful to Oklahomans. These requirements create an unnecessary burden on many working parents who have unstable jobs/work hours and put them at risk of losing health care. Losing health care and the ability to manage illness makes them more likely to lose employment, putting families at greater risk. When a parent loses health coverage, the whole family suffers. This is bad policy and the proposal should be rejected. Both of my parents are low income but don't qualify for public assistance in California. They are currently uninsured and dealing with a number of health ailments while struggling to pay off all their other bills. This is an almost impossible situation to get out of and denying them health care or taking it away is not going to get them any closer to earning enough to pay high insurance costs. They already work a max number of hours and still live pay check to pay check... we don't need to be doing this to other families. Please do not go through with this proposal!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/10/2018	Danielle M	My children are recipients of Medicaid, as well as the majority of clients I provide therapy to. These proposed changes with hurt us in ways that will have a profound impact on the health of Oklahoma's children and families ability to provide adequate healthcare. How do you propose having a healthy workforce if this proposal will result in thousands of individuals losing their health and mental health benefits? How will our state (which is number one in children growing up with trauma) deal with the thousands without mental health care? What this proposal does is take away much needed services that help lift up our fellow Oklahomans, services that help individuals manage their physical and mental health so that they can work or care for their families. I strongly use you to strike down this proposal and strengthen our state's ability to provide adequate care to its citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/13/2018	Robert	One major problem with this is people file for disability can't get Healthcare anyhow. And people that can't afford Healthcare or transportation or other means to be able to work have to have children for medical assistance and the food stamps program or national nutrition assistance program whatever you want to call it is screwed up to I thought it was to help people that can't work or is still looking for work.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/13/2018	Milissa	It will be a horrible burden for families, mothers, individuals with disabilities to be forced to try and work at	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		jobs that will not even pay for their gas, child care, rent, so that they will not lose their only access to healthcare.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/13/2018	Susan	Please don't accept the Oklahoma Medicaid work requirements proposal. It has too many flaws, too many unknowns, and the potential for too much damage. It is exhausting living with a chronic illness, and I worry that too many people will be unable to simply navigate the new system. I have multiple chronic illnesses and the exhaustion of daily life tasks is bad enough. I'm lucky I'm able to work, and my kids can be covered through that insurance, but it's so easy to slip through the cracks. I have a friend who can't work because her disabled son requires 24-hour care from her. People shouldn't be punished for being unable to work. Making people work more hours than they can simply to be able to receive life-saving medications or doctor's visits doesn't make any sense. Children shouldn't be punitively denied healthcare, just because their parent didn't work, which they have zero control over. So much of what happens in childhood can drastically alter your entire life's course. I don't want a single person more to die in Oklahoma because they couldn't afford their insulin, or to lose a child because they had to work and couldn't take the child to the doctor, or so many other scenarios that hurt Oklahoma and Oklahomans. Please, please, I'm begging you, don't do something that has the potential to be so harmful for so many children and families!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/18/2018	Chelsea	Good health starts from an early age. Making sure these kids are in good health regardless of their income should be a priority for everyone. Please keep this program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/20/2018	Anonymous	These requirements will leave some families in what will be almost hopeless situations. Some single mother families never intended to be single, some families their children will fall thru these gaping cracks. Not everyone is out there corrupting the system.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Caleb	Your policy will hurt your people. Kansas just tried these work requirements, the result was NO INCREASE IN WORK, but half the caseload for TANF. You would be taking away assistance and not even getting the gains you were hoping for. You fundamentally misunderstand the condition of these people if you think this policy will help. Are we a society? Are we a group anymore? These are your brothers and sisters, these people are in your tribe. How can we use the pronoun "We" to describe ourselves	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		as Americans if we don't take care of each other. If we can't take care of the tribe's least well-off, then we're not a tribe, we're just a bunch of individuals. That's not a country. Genuine question: does mothering children count as 20h non-paid work? Care-taking for elderly? Yard-work? If not, why not? They are all labor necessary for continuation of society. Please make the right decision, please stop applying for this waiver, you will hurt your own people.	
9/25/2018	Hannah	In February of 2018, my husband was let go from his position and his health care (the plan my daughters were on) was terminated. I work full-time, but insuring them on my plan would have made us unable to live/eat. Having soonercare available to us has provided safety and security for them in unimaginable ways. We have been able to continue to keep up to date on their well-child checks, vaccinations, and other appointments as necessary. This new policy could threaten that and the safety of my children. When my husband returns to work, we will be able to put them back on an insurance plan through us, but in the gap, soonercare has provided an important need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Audra	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This is a reflection of the lack of value placed on caregiving. A woman or man raising children are providing a valuable role. If they are volunteering or working 20 hours per week, they are still likely going to take state assistance for childcare. This will only hurt families in Oklahoma. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Again, Oklahoma lawmakers need to value caregiving of children and elderly or disabled. This law hurts people who are caring for people who cannot. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . Providing insurance for Oklahomans can prevent some problems from becoming very expensive problems. For example, provide medical care for a patient in early stages of diabetes and manage with very cheap medications and interventions like metformin and diet and exercise, or let the problem get out of hand and pay for expensive therapies like insulin and amputations	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	J. Sunshine	I am in the public health field . . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This requirement will hurt Oklahomans	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		who work temporary positions as well as those who earn too much to qualify under the new requirements - but not enough to have insurance. We are already ranked second in the nation for the number of uninsured citizens we have in our state. This is not a good plan for Oklahoma. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This is a poor plan for Oklahoma. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Having even fewer Oklahomans insured hurts all Oklahomans.	your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Erin	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Access to healthcare should not be tied to hours worked. More importantly, dependent children should not be penalized for circumstances outside their control. Many working adults who qualify for SoonerCare will struggle to meet the reporting requirements, not because they don't work enough, but because reporting may be difficult. My community will be negatively impacted when people lose their access to healthcare. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Lola	I am a health care provider. . . I support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. We have many employees that refuse work because they will lose benefits . If they are able to work they should work and then get assistance . Able bodied people should work and help themselves . The system is broke . Help those that will help themselves . If they are not able to work then help those people . . A lot of working people work around caring for children , parents and other family members . . It will increase the work force in Oklahoma . Adjust the criteria to help those that work and Ok should expand Medicaid and work to get wages to living wage . . Medicaid helps a lot of people that need it . Also is a lifestyle that carries on generation after generation for people that are able to work It's no different for them than any other working person In the state that have family members to care for . . Rework the criteria I would much rather help someone that is	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		working and trying than one that doesn't work or try to help themselves.	
9/25/2018	Louise	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would be devastating and would lead to greater expense for everyone.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . I have seen families faced with both fatal childhood cancers and families just trying to keep it together for the short term make it through those periods thanks to sooner care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	William	It is in the best interest of all citizens to leave Medicaid benefits intact. The purpose of government is to protect the poor from the rich. There isn't any reason for a government to exist if it only takes care of the rich.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Heather	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I know many parents whose children are enrolled in Soonercare coverage as well as themselves - many of these parents are taking care of special needs children and they are constantly taking them to appointments and trying to provide an enriching life for them when they are not at these appointments. Forcing these parents to work / volunteer outside of these responsibilities will only serve to reduce the quality of life for their children and possibly reduce their children's wellness. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. See above.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. In no way does Oklahoma need to pass policies / legislation that will reduce the number of persons with healthcare coverage. We are going to bankrupt ourselves by having our medical systems serve persons without health insurance. Those expenses get passed onto others. I work in one such system that is State supported. Our system channels millions of dollars annually toward care for persons without health coverage. And now we see newest census data ranking Oklahoma #2	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		in citizens without health coverage. It's obvious we need to find ways to make it easier for persons to obtain health insurance. . The availability of SoonerCare to those that have it benefit our community inordinately. Those that are fortunate enough to have this coverage are able to obtain care to maintain their health which in turn leads to learning and employment readiness - all eventually producing responsible productive citizens that contribute to our tax base.	
9/25/2018	Scott	I fail to see the economy in ballooning the bureaucracy, logistics, and technology to monitor the working poor so closely with the only goal being to deprive them of healthcare. Why set such unreasonable standards that include such strict requirements for hours worked in each cycle when we know full well that the working poor frequently work jobs that are very unpredictable and irregular? Why? Unless the only reason is to find a trick to use in depriving them of healthcare. Are we expecting the result to be that they suddenly become healthier without coverage? Surely, we can understand just the stress of these new requirements and especially the stress if one loses their coverage will make them far less healthy. And the result will probably be that they become a larger burden somewhere else in our healthcare system. This is not just meanspirited, it is counterproductive!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Vicki	I am an oncology social worker. Day after day I see the results of poorly thought through decisions impacting our families health care. Please take a stand and do something different instead of penalizing our already vulnerable populations. I know you can do better than this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Kurt	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). I do not currently have any of these conditions.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This requirement places a burden on those already burdened by their daily life. As a Christian, my faith places a priority on caring for those who need help. I like that my taxes go to help members of my community who need help with their healthcare. Good healthcare helps people find and keep work. Ongoing access to healthcare is also a bargain compared to emergency care often necessary if access is denied.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Many low-wage jobs in the service industry do not provide consistent, reliable hours. Any loss of healthcare access will make the matter worse, leading to increased use of emergency medical coverage and loss of wages, not to mention a reduction in stress for the families.. I do NOT	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Punishing people working with a denial of access to healthcare is counterproductive. I want the people living in my community to have access to healthcare so that their children can be healthy and continue to attend school, their parents can remain at work, and they can begin to improve their lives.. My community benefits from SoonerCare by helping to make sure those who live, work, and worship around me are healthy. My community benefits by helping to make sure the worker at the restaurant I frequent is healthy and focused on their job, not worrying about what they will do if a family member gets sick.	
9/25/2018	Marian	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). I do not currently have any of these conditions.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This requirement places a burden on those already burdened by their daily life. As a Christian, my faith places a priority on caring for those who need help. I like that my taxes go to help members of my community who need help with their healthcare. Good healthcare helps people find and keep work. Ongoing access to healthcare is also a bargain compared to emergency care often necessary if access is denied.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Many low-wage jobs in the service industry do not provide consistent, reliable hours. Any loss of healthcare access will make the matter worse, leading to increased use of emergency medical coverage and loss of wages, not to mention a reduction in stress for the families.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Punishing people working with a denial of access to healthcare is counterproductive. I want the people living in my community to have access to healthcare so that their children can be healthy and continue to attend school, their parents can remain at work, and they can begin to improve their lives.. My community benefits from SoonerCare by helping to make sure those who live, work, and worship around me are healthy. My community benefits by helping to make sure the worker at the restaurant I frequent is healthy and focused on their job, not worrying about what they will do if a family member gets sick.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
9/25/2018	Deborah	Just Don't Do It!! For humanness sake, JUST DON'T DO IT!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Jo Ann	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Retired. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Members of my community would not be able to afford health care. Part time jobs in OK pay minimum wage or lower for irregular schedules. Making medical care only available if one works at jobs that often do not even pay the gas to get back and forth, plus create more instances that take away from care giving themselves simply mean many people in this state will have no healthcare at all. Plus, most of these people do not have a computer and do not have the skills to respond. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It leaves many people without health care at all. Members of my community at least have health which they otherwise would not have at all.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	William	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Lower health outcomes and cause needless suffering . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Decrease health outcomes. Contribute to poor health of children of these parents and to all children at their schools and all people at their work places. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. See above. This proposal will not save money only shift costs to already strapped hospitals which will try to pass them on the insurance companies and thus to insured taxpayers. This proposal is politics at its worst. It is not smart. . Much healthier. Able to be more productive. Happier.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Sharon	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). I have several preexisting medical conditions.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would take vital services away from people who are already struggling to make ends meet and they would end up going to emergency rooms for treatment otherwise taken care of by a primary care provider.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Parents being a caretaker of others in their family need to be healthy to do this. They run the risk of passing along certain diseases such as the flu to the ones they are taking care of and this could place at risk individuals in the hospital or cause their death.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. We live in a rural community with most jobs not having health coverage and they would not get mental health help if needed due to most businesses that do have health coverage for employees do not cover mental health.. My daughter gets her Dialysis treatment and diabetic medication and supplies through Medicaid. If she did not have this she could not afford any of it and it would cause her death.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Carrie	I would like to offer my voice to those already advocating for others. A young lady a church this morning told me she just lost her job because she can no longer get a ride to work with her boss. She lives in an unsafe area so she is afraid to walk to the bus stop a quarter to half mile away. She's not sure what she can do until she figures out a way to work. I had never considered this before, and then when I read about this cut I thought: 1) How will this Medicaid change hurt her? 2) How can we continue to penalize our poor for being poor? Where she lives is all she can afford, and that was before her job loss! 3) Does she have the education to navigate the bureaucracy to get some much needed help? Probably not because she had to drop out of school to work to help her mom with bills and such. I am reminded that you can't pull yourself up by your bootstraps unless you have boots to begin with.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Tony	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
9/25/2018	Kathy	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes. I have Type 2 diabetes.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I believe this requirement creates a cruel Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. With no other health coverage options, most of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured. This will add to the general burden on our state.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I believe that a father with an irregular work schedule should not have to choose between a meal and his insulin. That's why SoonerCare is there to ensure that our most vulnerable families can get essential health care in time of need. This proposal is out of line with what Oklahomans claim their values really are.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Gia	Working 20 hours a week could easily put an individual, single mother or family of 3 over income for benefits. They would not qualify for employer-sponsored insurance and wouldn't afford insurance through Marketplace. Volunteering 20 hours per week would require child care, but not receiving financial compensation to cover that expense would place even more hardship and stress on the individual and family. This proposal would inadvertently cause stress on our Oklahoma families and result in unintended consequences. The Family Stress Model (Conger & Conger, 2002) discusses how financial instability and economic problems cause discord between parents and in the relationship, disrupting the adults' mental wellness. That then spills over into the relationship with the children increasing conflict within the family and disrupting the children's mental wellness. We know that mental health plays an important role in our children's education. We also know that our physical health is extremely dependent on our mental wellness. So please consider these factors before making a well-intended but potentially devastating decision for our state.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Courtney	I have not used your services and I am against work requirements for people who do use your services. It is difficult to qualify for Medicaid and those who do qualify are in dire need of assistance. Adding another hurdle to the qualification process risks harming people further than where they find themselves now. I have worked in	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		unemployment, child support, and with the homeless community. I have seen firsthand how our state's resources are often shut down to those who need them most. I encourage us to find a way to help heal people so that they can lead happy, fulfilling lives. Adding work requirements, I'm afraid, will only lead to more harm than good.	
9/25/2018	Patricia	I am staggered to think our state will deny health care to families whose adults are unable to work or volunteer enough hours despite being aged, having health concerns, or the burdens of major life complications. The working poor are poor because of these. Their children need to be helped for a healthy future.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Sherri	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Many parents are unable to work due to their own health or mental health issues or those of their children. This requirement will end up placing individuals further in poverty and/or encouraging parents to leave children not capable of being left alone to fend for themselves. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Frequently, it costs individuals more to place their child in care than money they can earn by working. We already have work requirements for many social services, but punishing people by taking away health care is inexcusable and unamerican.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. We must do a better job providing supports for individuals whose income barely exceeds these cutoffs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Jeff	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Puts too much pressure on the family.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . I am rural, it helps to sustain our hospital. Expand aca program.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Sue	Do not mess with Sooner Care. Many families who receive it and already work, do so with part time jobs and irregular hours. Mothers find that day care costs more than they earn. Unfortunately, their families are insecure. Many	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		want to go back to school so they can have a career that pays more than minimum wage.Keeping track of SoonerCare record keeping would not be cost effective. Please rethink this directive.	your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	William Mark	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Lower health outcomes and cause needless suffering . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Decrease health outcomes. Contribute to poor health of children of these parents and to all children at their schools and all people at their work places. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. See above. This proposal will not save money only shift costs to already strapped hospitals which will try to pass them on the insurance companies and thus to insured taxpayers. This proposal is politics at its worst. It is not smart. . Much healthier. Able to be more productive. Happier.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Janet	I care about those in my community that have SoonerCare. No. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. The reporting would place additional burdens on the people using SoonerCare. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Mana	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . . I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. The work requirement reporting would be a waste of resources and would do nothing to actually help vulnerable Oklahomans become more stable. It only creates an additional administrative barrier to coverage for those who need it most. They're no evidence that work requirements increase employment activity - only that they decrease coverage. This is pernicious and cruel. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Families needing SoonerCare are more likely than others	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to have inconsistent work schedules and transient housing due to predatory landlords and unscrupulous employers. They should not be punished for being victims of poor work conditions. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. If SoonerCare recipients had access to stable, living wage-paying jobs, they would take them - no one prefers to live in poverty conditions if they can support their families, and those relying on SoonerCare truly need it. Forcing them into low wage, uninsured jobs that then disqualify them from health coverage is a particularly mercenary policy.	
9/25/2018	Catherine	Tulsa Resident with employer provided health insurance. . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. We need to provide health care to our most vulnerable citizens, particularly those who cannot work. The volunteering requirement is ridiculous.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. See above. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Beverly	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). No. Retired. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This would force some parents off of badly needed healthcare, aldo their children. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. They would rely on emergency rooms for care. We who have health care should welcome Medicaid, as everyone deserves health care. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This proposal is NOT helping the poor who cannot afford health care. . They and their children can use Medicaid to access healthcare which they would not otherwise be sclerosis to afford.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
9/25/2018	Tammy	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. People don't work for a number of reasons that are not laziness. There are child care issues, elder care issues, disabilities, etc., that keep people out of the work force. What are parents supposed to	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		do with their kids, or adult children to do with their parents, while serving their required 20 hours? This seems like an undue and unnecessary burden for people who are already struggling. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This proposal would make it even harder for members of my community to access health care. It's poor public policy because it discourages people from doing the routine things that keep people in good health: well visits, vaccinations, early diagnosis of problems. People are more likely to end up in the emergency room when they can't afford to treat a health issue in the early stages. This puts a burden on the already-struggling health care system. Rather than saving money, it will cost more from our state in the long run.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
9/25/2018	Jesse Thomas	I do not support this policy change. The community engagement requirements as proposed by this demonstration waiver for SoonerCare eligibility conflict with the current SoonerCare eligibility by income standards. If implemented, meeting one requirement would cause the other requirement to be unmet. Under the SoonerCare Income Guidelines, an Adult Caretaker/Relative w/Child must have a monthly income less than \$455. Under the proposed demonstration, an Adult Caretaker/Relative w/Child applying for or enrolled in SoonerCare must provide verification of employment or community engagement in specified educational, job training or job search activities for at least 80 hours per month. 80 hours a month at a minimum wage of \$7.25/hour exceeds the income requirement for an adult and child in a household of one. Although alternative options to work have been listed under the amendment, the issue becomes an infeasible task of managing schedules to allow the required 20 hours of verified "community engagement" within a week when considering personal, cultural, familial, and otherwise necessary undertakings. Furthermore, data on the relationship between poor health and employment status is not concrete and though the general trend is as written, the correlation between the two is not well understood. In short, I do not support this proposed amendment because a) working individuals, especially parents, covered by SoonerCare risk losing coverage due to income requirement incompatibilities, b) the additional need for documentation and verification adds unnecessary stress to both the individual and the Authority, and c) it is difficult to label the relationship between poor physical and mental health and employment status as causal - that is,	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		which causes the other. As written, this amendment causes more problems than those solved, and I do not support it.	
10/1/2018	Susan Ward	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Insurance should not be contingent on employment. When a person is sick they often don't have the energy or time to work.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. People at this income level don't have much choice in the hours they work or with their schedule to be sure the hours are worked in a specific time period.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Sooner Care income levels need to be increased.. My grandsons are on SoonerCare but their parent can't afford insurance and don't qualify for state insurance.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Brent Wilborn	Oklahoma Primary Care Association is the state member association for Oklahoma's 20 community health centers and two urban Indian clinics. Oklahoma's health centers serve as critical access points to Oklahoma's designated Medically Underserved Areas and Populations. Health centers offer integrated primary medical care, behavioral health services, dental services, and a large list of other patient support services for over 220,000 of whom over 74,000 are Medicaid members including nearly 23,000 persons age 18 and older. We write to express our concerns and considerations for the proposed Medicaid Work Requirements or Community Engagement draft waiver proposal. The only categorical group of Medicaid eligible persons today that this proposal could impact are those adult parents / caregivers of children on Medicaid. These are persons who have extremely low income relative to rest of the Medicaid population – income at roughly 43% of federal poverty guidelines for the lower 48 states. There is a strong possibility that some may lose coverage due to this proposal, and for some, for reasons outside of their immediate control. Regardless of whether there is a direct impact to health insurance coverage for the children of a household, when someone in a household loses coverage, there may be impacts to the lives of the entire family or household and their ability to access timely preventive and primary care services. Loss of coverage could lead to additional uncompensated care costs for providers and add to the potential for otherwise preventable medically-	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		related bankruptcy of families who are attempting to do their best to earn income in their circumstances. In the letter from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to states in January 2018 regarding work requirements proposals, the agency indicated, “Such programs should be designed to promote better mental, physical, and emotional health in furtherance of Medicaid program objectives. Such programs may also, separately, be designed to help individuals and families rise out of poverty and attain independence, also in furtherance of Medicaid program objective.” The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have indicated that states should use caution in developing proposals that could likely discontinue coverage for those under income eligibility guidelines for Marketplace plan subsidies in the individual insurance market, and who make too much to be eligible for Medicaid in order to avoid a “cliff effect” by the requirements. In the current design, this Oklahoma model would almost certainly cause several current members to fall into the “cliff effect.” Moreover, OKPCA finds that the current proposal lacks the infrastructure supports to ensure adequate compliance opportunities and a “hand up,” and lacks a backstop for coverage if not traditional Medicaid, but instead could leave many patients in desperate need of critical medical care including for chronic conditions. These could be conditions that if not treated regularly with appropriate medical care and pharmaceuticals could quickly develop into extremely dangerous exacerbated health conditions. In our opinion, the proposal is inadequate to meet the parameters CMS laid out to “promote better mental, physical, and emotional health.” If the intention of the Medicaid work requirements policy is to help individuals have dignity in finding and conducting work, Oklahoma needs a transition plan to ensure adequately affordable health coverage and benefits are available for them when they earn more than the current eligibility threshold. All things considered, OKPCA believes this proposal in the current form has the potential to cost more than it saves by the time staff time, system changes, and other aspects of implementation are taken into account. A requirement of 1115 demonstration waivers is that they are at least cost neutral. We believe that while the entire 1115 waiver - beyond but including this proposal - could be demonstrated to be cost neutral, the agency should carefully consider whether this work requirements /	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		community engagement proposal itself would be cost neutral in keeping with the principle of the policy that 1115 waiver programs must be cost neutral. The nature of the industries and types of work in which many lower income parents/guardians of Medicaid eligible children participate do not necessarily maintain consistent hours at the discretion of the worker. Rather, the hours may be at the discretion of the company for which they work and factors unrelated to the worker's willingness to work such as weather impacts or inconsistent consumer demand. Moreover, it may be unreasonable to expect that someone in these lines of work would maintain a backstop of available volunteer opportunities at the ready anytime their employer or work function would otherwise not meet, perhaps unexpectedly, the required number of hours. For example, if a worker is working construction in a lower wage position, and a longer weather event occurs preventing the construction work from continuing for a period of time, that worker may be not able to quickly participate in other community engagement opportunities to satisfy the requirements to maintain Medicaid coverage due to no fault of their own. Those opportunities may not be sufficiently close to where they reside, and they might not be available for impromptu work. Misinformation may also be a factor in working with the affected population and their families and relationships. More specifically, OKPCA has concern that should some individuals lose coverage due the proposed policies, there may be a propensity of some in the community by word of mouth to believe that they too are not able to obtain Medicaid coverage when, in fact, they would have been eligible. The uncertainty created by the proposal and an individual's personal circumstances may inadvertently inhibit some from applying for coverage for which they are actually eligible. Similarly, some parent/caregivers if they lose coverage for reasons of this proposed policy may erroneously believe their child as a member of the household is no longer eligible when, in fact, they are and not enroll them. This presents the potential for the child to not receive adequate or delayed health care, or potentially face negative health consequences for the parent which, again, impacts the family as a whole. Much attention has been brought to the effects of long term potent stress of living in poverty and related life circumstances. This both for adults and as ACEs or "adverse childhood events" for children. We have observed astounding rates of suicide, especially in rural areas, and tremendous mental health problems developed because of the strain in the daily lives of those in these	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		circumstances. This policy may, in fact, create a situation in which a person who seriously desires to work and is unable due to circumstances outside their control is now faced with the stress of additional loss – loss of medical coverage, and contribute toward a dangerous mental health crisis. OKPCA supports the proposed exemptions of the policy including among other exemptions for foster children, persons involved in substance abuse rehabilitation program, a period of time for those persons reintegrating in society after imprisonment, and for caregivers of those incapacitated. However, for the last exemptions the means by which a person would be determined to be incapacitated and unable to work is left ambiguous in the current proposal, as last reviewed, and may be circumstantial. Implementation of this exemption could be allowed on the basis of individual circumstances; however, certain parameters could be set to ensure uniform application of standards across circumstances. Also, OKPCA supports at least the proposed grace period for compliance. Perhaps, this grace period would allow for more continuous coverage and the opportunity to find additional means to participate in community engagement activities. OKPCA recommends that the agency consider applying for alternative coverage, perhaps by Insure Oklahoma in the event that applicants by complying with work requirements exceed the income threshold for Medicaid but have income below the line for subsidies for Marketplace plans, and otherwise do not fit within current Insure Oklahoma eligibility parameters. Another possibility would be to apply for a step contribution between 43% FPL and 100% FPL for those increasing their income to leave the financial gain motivation of work and the dignity of paying what they can for coverage without endangering their ability to access health care and remain healthy, productive citizens. The latter would meet the principles of being designed to help incentivize work, provide opportunity, and prevent a “cliff effect.” Such a program could leverage private individual dollars, state dollars, and federal dollars to provide this coverage. All community health centers serve all persons regardless of ability to pay, and on a sliding fee scale. Last year, health centers served over 70,000 uninsured individuals in Oklahoma. Health centers serve designated Medically Underserved Areas by law. Therefore, there is a strong possibility that should individuals lose Medicaid coverage due to these policies, health centers would continue to	

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		serve them, but as uninsured patients. Meanwhile, the State removed direct, last-dollar financial support for health centers to serve individuals who uninsured in late 2017, shifting the burden to other financial resources. Capacity of health centers is only as great as the resources health centers have to maximize as they operate as a backstop for the health care needs of Oklahoma lower-income, uninsured individuals. If health centers are otherwise expected to full part of the gap when persons lose coverage by providing direct service to these uninsured, then additional resources should be provided by the State to serve them in that manner. However, once a health center identifies a health condition that requires services outside of their scope of practice in primary care, the patients may find difficulty obtaining and affording the subsequent specialty or hospital care without the benefit of the Medicaid coverage they may have had absent this proposal. Oklahoma Primary Care Association welcomes the opportunity to provide additional feedback as the agency develops further details of program implementation.	
10/1/2018	LaRhonda McBrayer	Please protect Soonercare for the children	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Pat McCallie	This would be a disaster to cut this anymore. Stop what you are doing and reevaluate this situation. Our health care is already extremely underfunded.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Amanda Klinger	Oklahomans are already unhealthier than many other Americans and have less access to health care and medical facilities. Many Oklahomans live in poverty due to a lack of economic opportunity and access to excellent education. Adding more requirements for families and children to qualify for Medicaid and Soonercare will make it harder for them to get the medica care they needing order to thrive. Work requirements also cause families with legitimate health and mental health problems that prevent them from working to get the proper care they need for themselves and their families. We need to do what's right for Oklahoma families and for the future of this state and ensure medica care for those in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	June Kelley	Don't make cuts to Oklahoma Medicaid! Don't take health care away from our most vulnerable citizens.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kelly McGrayh	As a school counselor, I have great concerns regarding this new work requirement. Unhealthy parents lead to unhealthy kids. I already have students working to supplement family income, or watching siblings while their parents work. Their schoolwork and health suffers. And for parents without a child old enough to stay home alone or watch the younger ones, what kind of childcare will they be placed in so mom can work? Not a safe or nurturing one if she can't afford it, and we all know how expensive good childcare is. This proposal once again will hurt the children of Oklahoma. It will also increase administrative costs for the state in an already strained system. Enough is enough; we must stop punishing people, Especially children, for being poor.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Greg Oppel	I teach about this very problem in my financial literacy and government units as a teacher. These reductions seem like reasonable policy choices but we can't de-incentivize work. Entitlement and social welfare spending works best when it provides scaffolding past the bare minimum and allows recipients the chance to move past qualifying levels to be able to stand on their own feet . . . eventually! If we pull the carpet out from underneath them they will fall back to the bottom again. Please consider investing in low income parents and children by allowing them to get on their feet AND THEN SOME so they can stay out of poverty and become contributors for the rest of their lives.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Rilla Askew	I'm appalled at the proposed changes to SoonerCare requirements. I personally know several single mothers and their children who will become uninsured if these changes are put in place. They'll have no health care, will be forced to use emergency rooms for worst-case health situations, which will in the long run cost more, and the health and wellbeing of our state and our most precious resource, that is, our children, will be adversely affected. How mean-spirited, ruthless, and uncaring can we be? This is not who we are as Oklahomans. Many of our legislators pride themselves on their "Christianity." This is the least Christian, least Christlike proposal I can imagine. It breaks my heart how we've come to blame and punish the poor for being poor in our state. Nor do we need to add the bureaucracy and monitoring costs these changes would bring to our already stressed state budget. I implore you not to put these changes in place.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Paul Austin	I am adamantly opposed to the Medicaid Waiver proposal. It will leave thousands of poor Oklahomans without health care. Many of whom will certainly lead lives of chronic and/or incapacitating illnesses. Many of them could die from lack of care. And the work requirement is self-	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		defeating. The amount of hours required will earn people enough to disqualify them from receiving health care and, cruelly, they will not have earned enough to pay for health insurance. The proposal is also self-defeating if its purpose is cost-cutting. The cost to other services needed to care for the chronically ill will easily exceed whatever savings the state might get from it.	your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Amy Moore	A person shouldn't have to work to have health coverage, that should be a right for any living person. We should be helping fellow Oklahoman's, not making life more difficult.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Ruth Brelsford	As a CASA volunteer I see children in struggling families weekly who will be devastated if they lose the health care they are provided through SoonerCare. Most of their parents are working or have very real extenuating reasons why they aren't working. having the health care their children depend on withdrawn will not force them into the work place. if anything, they will miss more work because their children are sick and they can't afford to take them to the doctor so they will lose their low-paying jobs. This is a very poorly developed plan which will cost the state of Oklahoma more in the long run.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Jeanette Jahnke	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This is a mean spirited requirement. It would leave young parents with less quality time to take care of their children or to participate in training at either the vo-tech or college level. It could also interfere with an individual's ability to stay healthy to go to school. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . When I was employed at an elementary school, many of my needy students received health care and medication coverage that they separately needed. Students learn best if they're healthy.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Donna Garrett-Oliver	I am on SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	
10/1/2018	Edward L Poole Jr.	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). High blood pressure and high cholesterol. I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would deprive people of their health care. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would deprive people of their health care. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would deprive people of their health care. They get needed health care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Beverly Childress	When did Oklahoma become so cruel as to take health care from the poor? I grew up during the depression and ww II and have social security and Medicare. I never needed Medicaid, but I do not begrudge those who need care for taking this social benefit. What is wrong with this state? Not only do we hurt the poor but our hospitals as well. How many rural hospitals have we lost due to lack of funds? Stop this blindness to human need!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sumeeta Nanda MD	I am a health care provider. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I am a physician who provides a limited amount of Medicaid care but I do not believe we should make it harder for people to access health care.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . N/A.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Arthetta Pouncil	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). Yes. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I believe this requirement would be devastating to communities of poor and disenfranchised individual of women and men. How can you ask the individuals to work or volunteer, where you do not provide enough assistance to provide monies for volunteering. This requirement is unacceptable. Governor Fallon is a disgrace to Oklahoma citizens for introducing this bill like this.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent,	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		could lose their coverage. This is devastating to parents and citizens of Tulsa. What are they going to do for quality hold care. How will this effect their food stamps and medical services. Will this cut them off completely from DHS services . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . They benefit totally from SoonerCare. Governor Fallon's refusal to accept Medicaid expansion shows she does not care about the poorest population of Oklahoma communities.	
10/1/2018	Jim Ammerman	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Jim. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Those among us with the lest to loose will be forced to make a Hobson's Choice and risk loosing even more. Your, mine, our humanity as a State is at risk.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. This is soul crushing, punitive Capitolism at it's worst.. The concept of " herd " protection is at play here. Everybody gets vaccinated ..then lest chance of a pandemic outbreak. The recent cluster of Mumps at OU was probably abated by "herd" protection.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Bradley Gordon	I ask that you not take away medical coverage through SoonerCare from some of the most vulnerable families in Oklahoma. It will inevitably cause financial ruin and devastating health consequences for these individuals and their children. Oklahoma already has a very high number of uninsured people and the proposed change in policy would only exacerbate the problem amongst those who are living on the fringes of our economy and society already. Despite the "savings" that have been been estimated under this policy changes, Oklahoma's poorest children and adults would pay the price and the state would be worse off for it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Xander Doolittle	I'm going to keep this brief: People's lives are at stake, and it's our responsibility to treat the least fortunate of us with compassion. Please, do not pass this measure.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Paula Sharp	Do your Christian duty in following the teachings of your savior, Jesus Christ, and help those in need, most especially when they are ill. Maybe you are not really a Christian? Actions speak louder than words. What will YOUR actions demonstrate to the people of this state?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Will you demonstrate siding with greed and bigotry or sharing and inclusiveness?	your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kelsey Royce	For many Oklahomans, SoonerCare is a lifeline, a necessity not a luxury. As a college educated, underemployed millennial for most of my working life, I have been grateful for its availability. Please do not cut funding for Medicaid or refuse to accept funding for it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Monte Prater	Any time we reduce health care for our poorest and our youngest, we are reducing our future assets. More and more research shows how important early childhood health care is to later learning and earning.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Monte Prater	I am a compassionate tax payer who cares about children. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would not affect me directly but would affect the welfare of our state.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. Children need attention and health care to grow. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. We will all be facing a less healthy, less educated cohort of workers.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Susan Steele	The plan creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. With no other health coverage options, most of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sara Williams	I am a future health care provider (current fourth year medical student). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This could result in devastating loss of coverage for many vulnerable Oklahomans. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Dawn	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked more than 20 hours a week as a caregiver and a mother of two children who have disabilities.. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would cause several	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		individuals to not have access to Insurance to provide for their medical needs so that they can continue caring for their loved ones and family members. this in turn would put a burden on our system because they would need more help in providing cares for these family members that they provide without being paid to do.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. This will result in several individuals not having Health Care coverage and being able to take care of themselves because they have made their families needs a priority. Which in turn is actually lessening the burden on our state.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. no insurance coverage and being forced to either do without medical care or having to go to charity clinics which only partially meet Medical Careperiod for individuals with life-threatening illnesses or conditions that have to be maintained daily it could result in putting them in emergency medical situations and no way to provide for their care.. Are children benefit from having soonercare. We have one child who has several medical conditions that can result in his death if they were not taken care of and maintained. we have one child who has seizures and without his seizure medication he could die.	
10/1/2018	Joyce Brown	I support the current President's Administration, Governor Mary Fallin and the OHCA to implement the above amendment to SoonerCare. Medicaid and other Federal Assistance Programs were intended as a temporary status and not as a generational lifestyle. For the able bodied individuals, they must contribute to society through employment and other productive constructive activities of daily living and stop being a burden on society. Move forward with implementing this Amendment.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kathryn Fox	None of the above. . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Shannon Baker	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. This is a huge barrier	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		for the poor that fight just to stay on SoonerCare due to the ridiculous hoops they have to go through to sign up and maintain their coverage with no human help-it's all computerized . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Marian Pfenning	Protect families. Work requirement is not o.k.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Ginger Simmons	Please reconsider this requirement. The vast majority of people who are physically capable of working already do. This is an unfair and classist means test. Thank you.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sharon MacIntosh	I am opposed to a work requirement for Sooner Care eligibility. People are unable to work for a variety of reasons including illness or disability, child care considerations, caregiver status, etc. I oppose any waiver that is e petted to decrease access to healthcare for any Oklahoman. We should be expanding coverages, not limiting them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sheena Wiggins	Keep SoonerCare as is. Do not implement work requirements. That puts a hardship on Oklahoma families. There's enough trouble in this state already. No need to add to it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Cathy Beall	•Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. •This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. •Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. •Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them Please withdraw this proposal. Oklahoma doesn't even accept expanded Medicaid! How is this requirement going to help the mothers who work full time to take care of their children? My daughter has medical issues, in which she is not able to work, AND has a 4-month old to take care of. This would absolutely destroy her and her family! I appreciate the fact that you are accepting comments. Please don't ignore them. The plan is working well as it is. It will require so much additional work from OHCA. This is the wrong way to go. Thank you for your time.	
10/1/2018	Susan McCoy	SoonerCare is a lifesaver in every sense of the word. As a visiting nurse, I have patients who rely on SoonerCare to survive and recover from life-threatening conditions. It would be in short-sighted and very poor judgement to require sick, injured or debilitated people to work in order to keep their SoonerCare coverage. Oklahoma healthcare already falls short in so many areas, this move would only be detrimental and cause great harm to Oklahomans.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Margaret Enright	Including strict work requirements in eligibility for Medicaid will be a huge mistake for Oklahoma families as they struggle to attain and maintain improved health and socioeconomic status. Many of these families already work; but their work may be seasonal, or based on their employer's stability, or interrupted for a time due to unforeseen family illness or tragedy.... Robbing these low-income struggling families of their only resource of affordable healthcare will be very detrimental to them, but also to Oklahoma's healthcare system. People who don't have any reliable source of preventive healthcare will, of necessity, utilize Emergency Room care at enormous additional cost to the system.... This move to add strict, overly-specific work requirements is ill-conceived and seems to be quite problematic for other states which have already tried it. Please do not implement this policy in Oklahoma!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
10/1/2018	Cherie Blakley	Start drug testing, using a good method - not pee. To get help, and aid. Then get people cleaned up, so they are able to help them self. Any extra help will depend on if your drug free, and mentally disturbed are also capable, and able to work, lots do so every day. State stay on top of retesting. Yes every one needs to work and do their fair share when young and of working age. Jobs need to be available in the state to get, good paying jobs in industry (not flipping burgers). Stop credit checks to get a job, really! Stop credit checks to open a bank savings account and checking account. Stop taxing gas, and oil, cigarets enough taxes on the same things over and over. Stop chemical agents being used in any product that promotes addiction to that product, or contaminates our food and water supply to make us sick. Is it really that hard to simply do the right thing. why allow any smokable weed, it destroys lungs- thats not good medicine or good sence. Give money directly to each state department it should go to, who knows better what to spend it on first, we don't need our state repessinitives always robbing Peter and never paying Paul. Take a pay cut governor, senators, judges, commisioners sounds like we can't afford you. Insurance commissioner start doing your job, make all type of insurance (car, Health, Home) rates compatible with state income levels, Oklahoma is a poverty stricken state, open your eyes. To much money is wasted on state officials working against the wishes of the people they represent; and finding loop wholes in what we voted for, so they can change it back to their way (witch is big money we never see, look at the jails and prisons). Why do rich and well off men and women fight over these government jobs like old dogs fighting over a bone (sure hasn't proven to be to help Oklahomans or the state) ??	
10/1/2018	Carrie Powell	Please continue to keep low income families covered by soonercare without adding to their already existing hardships! Taking care of parents is taking care of kids!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Suzanne Kelley	Some people work as much as they are able and should not be penalized or dropped due to mental or physical limitations. Don't stop Medicaid!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
10/1/2018	Abbey Richards	The state's new SoonerCare proposal will hurt Oklahoma families and you should withdraw it! An Oklahoman taking care of her children and elderly mother should not have to worry if she can afford a doctor when she's ill. A father with an irregular work schedule should not have to choose between a meal and his insulin. That's why SoonerCare is there to ensure that our most vulnerable families can get essential health care in time of need. Unfortunately, if this proposal proceeds, thousands of struggling parents could soon lose access to vital SoonerCare coverage. This is just cruel. To kick our neighbors when they are down and to refuse to help when we can and they need it most. Healthcare is essential and these are the very people I would want to benefit from my tax dollars. This is a bad plan for Oklahoma and it should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kelly Smalley	I have not been approved for disability and lost my medicaid coverage. I have MS and epilepsy and a long list of other medical conditions. I can't get any treatment for my very serious medical issues because I cannot work and I cannot get medicaid. I KNOW there are other adults just like me and without medical care it is impossible to get approved for disability.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Jon Fields	Please do not cut SoonerCare. My family works full time jobs and pays taxes so that others don't have to worry. The current program is the biggest bang for our buck. Please do not cut SoonerCare. Keeping SoonerCare (and Medicaid in general) means keeping a centralized mechanism for taking care of one another. It's efficient. Please do not cut SoonerCare. Keeping SoonerCare isn't just good for parents: it's good for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Dori Smith	As a retired speech language pathologist working in the Oklahoma City Public School System, I oppose the plan to cut health care access for the very low income persons who don't report working enough hours. I worked at Andrew Johnson Elementary School for 19 years with many low income students with varying degrees of special needs. The physical care needed for some of these children by their families were very significant. If requirements to work were instituted for these parents, they could be put in a very difficult position - caring adequately for their child or working to complete Sooner Care requirements. Care for their child and Sooner Care insurance are both needed for the life of this child and their parents. The families that I had the privilege to work with love their children and do the best they can. Please don't make it harder for them.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Tara Gaddy	Please do not cut Sooner Care. I am all for drug testing on state funded benefits for people but to cut is to hurt those families that are already hurting more.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Heather Rochat	Sooner Care is vital to our state, we are one of the lowest income per house hold states and this is how people make sure they can provide essential health care to themselves and their loved ones. I myself have used sooner care while i was in college to help take care of my three small children and i dont know where i would of been without it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Carolyn Harris	Adults and children in the state of Oklahoma must have access to health care. Health care is a right not a priviledge. Oklahoma has one of the highest rates of uninsured and underinsured in the United States. I know many people who struggle to support themselves and families. These individuals and families must be able to access healthcare. The current proposal to require people to work certain number of hours in order to maintain health and medical coverage is flawed, unrealistic, and a threat to the health and wellbeing of low income families. I am against this proposal and it must be withdrawn. More should be done to lift our families and children up rather than implementing mean spirited and misguided proposals, which threatens their health.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Jeffrey Goodson	Protect Sooner Care and the public good.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Emily Graham	As an Oklahoman, I urge you to protect SoonerCare and continue to enroll the many Oklahomans who desperately need medical coverage. We are the sickest state in the country and one of the poorest. Let's at least not be the cruelest.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Bettina Larsen	If we reduce or eliminate medicaid benefits for adults who now qualify we will become the worst state in the Union regarding the health of its public citizenry. We cannot allow punitive conservative actions, similar to structural adjustment programs, to negatively impact the health of poor Oklahomans. A healthy citizenry is a strong and productive one.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Ann Thompson	This is punitive and hard hearted. Republicans always think that the reason are poor is because they are lazy and don't want to work. This is wrong. Quit punishing people for being poor and quit being self righteous! Many times the reasons people don't work enough hours is because they are not given enough hours at work. Also they may be too sick to work full time. Perhaps they are taking care of another family member. Don't do this. Let them have medical.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Toni Wilson	My granddaughter,22, is mentally ill. She would love to have a job, any job, but she can't even get through a job	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		interview. She takes her meds, but they never get rid of the voices or depression or mania. Without Sooner Care she would not be able to afford the cost of the drugs she is on. She has just been approved for SS disability. She will get about \$700.00 a month. Her drugs are about \$1900.00 a month. This is why a blanket rule for number of hours worked a month WILL NOT work for all people. Please consider this in making these rules. One size does not fit all. Thank you for your time.	considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sally Jane Kerschen-Sheppard	Oklahoma already has some of the worst uninsured rates in the nation. This Sooner Care change will only make it worse. All Oklahomans need healthcare. Please do change our Sooner Care coverage.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Erin Maxwell	Putting more bureaucratic hoops in the way of those who need care will only lead to an increase in denials of coverage to those who are not able to navigate the requirements, and take resources away from providing care in order to pay for increased administrative costs. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide care to those otherwise unable to afford it. If this proposal is implemented it will cause people to lose the care they need. I oppose the Medicaid work requirement proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Anna Carpenter	Please do not put this burden on our most vulnerable community members!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Jessica Thrasher	Our state needs this. My son is bi polar and has visual and auditory hallucinations that keep him from living a normal life. We depend on sooner care because the therapy is SO much, and I can't afford to lose it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Chandra Smotherman	Please withdraw the proposal. Cutting soonercare coverage for those who don't meet the work requirement is a threat to the health of children and their parents. First, the increase in administrative burden of monitoring this requirement would be significant. The money used to cover the administrative burden would be better spent providing insurance coverage. Secondly, the income requirements for SoonerCare are so low that meeting the work requirement would result in many families becoming uninsured. Third, for many working families, SoonerCare enables them to obtain the expensive medications and co-pays associated with managing chronic conditions. I am a single parent of a child on the autism spectrum, even with job related insurance I couldn't afford the health care and prescriptions I and my son needed. The stress of the situation, the inability to provide for my son's medical	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		needs, eventually took a toll on my health as well, now my medical costs have gone up. I had to take the money from our food budget to pay for his medications. I am currently a full-time student carrying 18 hours in pursuit of a degree in IT. It is my hope to obtain a career position in the field and earn enough money to cover our medical and care expenses but fear I may have to quit school before completion so I can meet the work requirement to keep SoonerCare. There are 168 hours in a week, presently, with my current responsibilities, I have approximately 7 hours to 'spare'. What you are proposing sounds good on paper but would do more damage than good. Please withdraw this proposal.	
10/1/2018	Brooke Beeman	To ask that SoonerCare coverage be cut if needy families don't report working enough hours every week makes no sense. If they work the hours needed to remain on SoonerCare as is proposed, then they will earn TOO MUCH to qualify for SoonerCare! Already desperate families will then have to become uninsured, with no way to pay for needed medical treatment and medications. Families that are already struggling to afford the bare essentials will be further burdened and without replacement assistance. Do not allow this proposal to pass!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	John Allen	Please leave SoonerCare as is. To penalize those who can least afford it is unconscionable. I take this as an attack on the least healthy of our state, on the children of our state. I implore you to back off of these changes for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sam Johnson	As a librarian, I have seen poor mothers struggling to pay bills and take care of their children. Some of them don't have jobs but are using our computers to find work. Some are working part-time jobs that may not provide enough hours to qualify under the new requirements. ALL OF THEM desperately need SoonerCare to help take care of their children. They are not free-loaders or trying to scam the system. Please reconsider this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Beth Sullins	Working requirements for health care access is ridiculous. There are hundreds of families who can't work, or if they work enough hours under this proposal, would then not qualify for care. I believe you should withdraw the proposal, think about what's GOOD for OK families, and how to help them, as opposed to making it harder for them to get care. I object to this proposal and will vote against anyone who supports it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Lynn Rivers	This measure punitively affects young, fragile families, undermining their attempts to get out of poverty (it does nothing to help their job chances, or the chance that their employer will offer health insurance--only 11% of families in poverty receive that from employers-check the facts). 3/4 of those targeted are young mothers who can't afford	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		childcare to go to work 20 hours a week. If the goal is human suffering, this measure wins!	
10/1/2018	Sandra Armstrong	Healthcare should be a basic human right. I will only endorse changes to Soonercare if you are planning on making it better and since that's not what you're doing... then leave it alone!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Elyse Freitas	I strongly disagree with work requirements for SoonerCare. This proposal is not working in Arkansas and will not work here. We live in a nation that values compassion, where health care is a right and not a privilege. There are many reasons why someone may not be able to report enough hours in a week: if they are a caregiver to a member of their family, if they are sick, if they can't fill out the paperwork correctly. They should not be punished for this. This is a burden that the elderly grandmother caring for her grandchild and working 30 hours a week should not have to bear. This is a burden that a son caring for his sick father instead of finding a job should not have to bear. This is a burden that the student attending classes, the single mother without internet, the family going through a divorce should not have to bear. Yes, some people may be taking advantage of the system, but I would rather assume that everyone is innocent instead of everyone is guilty. I do not believe that the majority are trying to cheat the system. They are just trying to survive. We need to help the working poor, not put more roadblocks in front of them. I believe in keeping doors open for those who need them. This proposal will not do that. Please do not force these requirements on Oklahomans who are doing their best day in and day out to make a life for themselves and for their families.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Lori Cable	The people who will be hurt by this proposed action are our children. When our children are hurt because of poor health care, and they become sick - guess who also catches whatever they come down with. It won't be only the kids with no coverage, it will be your kids and mine. Let's do what is right. Politics aside please.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kelsey Harrison	You can't take away healthcare from a group of people trying to make it. What you find minimal is what they have to offer. If you take away their medications and their medical care help them why do they have a reason to continue working when they know at the end of the day if they get sick they can't afford it. You can't keep putting people in bad places in worse positions. Healthcare should be a basic right.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Linda Plummer	I get it that it sounds good to say people must prove they work to get Medicaid, but it is not reasonable. It will hurt children and the elderly more than anyone else! Jobs may have very few or no hours one week. Is it fair for my kids	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		not to have Medicaid because of this? There are many problems with this law! It is a bad law!!!!!!	your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Nettie Seale	Please don't mess with SoonerCare. These people need healthcare as do all Oklahomans. We need Medicare for all in the United States.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Marilyn Bradford	Oklahoma has the second highest uninsured rate. Too many Oklahoma 's work low paying jobs without health benefits. Refusal to extend Medicaid hurts s single head of households in under hour, low pay jobs.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Vivian Sloan	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Linda Bracken	Oklahoma parents and children desperately need healthcare protection in this State. Children cannot function and thrive in normal school settings without both strong physical and mental health. Parents need Medicaid medical health insurance to provide strong family support. Oklahoma can only benefit from ensuring its citizens are adequately taken care of in the area of healthcare...it's a bottom line fundamental human rights issue!!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Glenda F Nelson	No. I did not work last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. It would not.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. It would not.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. It would not.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Eric Wrightson	How is my stay at home wife who is homeschooling my children supposed to have health insuramce if this passes? Since Oklahoma refuses to take care of the problems with astronomical deductibles, SoonerCare is the only healthcare we can afford on one income. Please do not put these rules into place!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Phyllis Rogers	Please do not hurt our children. I work with children who need these services. I do believe some of these parents are trying.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Sometimes for what ever reason they can t get all the work they want. I can think of daycare issues ,transportation just to name a few. Please help our children and their parents . I know these parents care about their children.	seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Thomas Blaney	Forcing people to work when they are unable to work only makes their situation worse, and will raise the incidents of ER treatment, which will only increase the cost of healthcare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Theresa Shannon	Someone in my family has SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Add more stress to families already struggling to get by and have healthcare for their families.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. . My brother is a widow (wife died of cancer 5 years ago) and now he has cancer. After 40 years of working as a hardworking carpenter, he became unable to work and needed healthcare for treatments. He was also raising a teenager by himself and was the sole provider for his family. Without SoonerCare for him and his son a terrible situation would have been even much worse. Knowing he has healthcare for his cancer treatments gives him a chance to survive and be a father to his son. Just because someone is poor doesn't mean they aren't hardworking and deserving of healthcare especially when children are involved.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Oma Dodson-Boyte	This will do nothing but harm. Almost everyone who is able to work, do work if they can find a job. This idea will most likely cost more than it will save and at the same time cause more hunger and poverty! Do not do this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Vicki Muir	Please stop the harm as a result of poor decision making and hardship created for our vulnerable populations.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sarah E. McLaughlin	These Medicaid patients that are also parents already have too many conditions that hamper them seeking help and do not need any more barriers to simply survive. Children's health would suffer because of the barriers to the parents.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
10/1/2018	Charlotte Stone	Behavior of the parents should not jeopardize the health and well being of our most vulnerable and valuable people. Caring for children is a moral responsibility of our government. The future of our nation depends on developing future generations that are healthy and well educated.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Ron Palma	Down with Oklahoma's new Medicaid requirements! Our public health record is shameful.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Ron Palma	No on Kavanaugh and Trump! I am reading Woodward's book Fear:Trump in the WH and I feel that our "president" is a disgrace to our country. Dump Trump!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Elliot Butay	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). I deal with and take medication for anxiety/depression.. I worked or volunteered more than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. I serve many youth at or under the poverty line. Their parents work either multiple jobs or jobs with varying hours. Reporting hours is an unnecessary and arduous task for families who are already dealing with so much. Not to mention this requirement seems to unfairly require poor people to prove their worthiness of healthcare. Someone's working status should not be a prerequisite to accessing the means to stay alive.. I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. I serve many youth whose families live at or under the poverty line. Losing healthcare for these families who are already struggling in so many ways, would be, in my mind, unbearable. Every element of their lives is affected by poverty, their transportation situations, and therefore their education and ability to maintain steady work, as well as their ability to provide necessities like food, clothing, and shelter, not even considering healthcare a necessity. The stress induced by not knowing how you can pay for emergency health care issues or pre-existing conditions (many of the youth I serve also take medication for depression/anxiety, which seems to be empirically tied to their situation of poverty) amounts to an unconscionable act of oppression by the state.. I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. The price of private insurance or insurance even if offered through an	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		employer is unbearably high. I have a good job and both me and my wife work, and we still have to make hard decisions on whose insurance our children will be on, and we still have to meet deductibles that can be a big pressure on my middle class family. I can't imagine this pressure on a family already struggling with poverty. Working a lot of hours sadly is not equal or correlative to having enough money to provide for yourself in our society.. When I moved back to Oklahoma after leaving after college, my wife, two kids and I lived with my parents. My wife worked as a social worker and I worked as a server in a restaurant. Soonercare allowed my kids to be vaccinated and to see a doctor before we could afford insurance when I got a better full time job. Many of the youth I serve at the church I work at can safely go on outings because of soonercare that they otherwise might be excluded from.	
10/1/2018	Martha Mattes	Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children. Building a new system to monitor SoonerCare members' work activities will grow administrative costs. Working families risk losing their coverage if they don't fill out the right paperwork. However, this proposal gives almost no detail on how the state will manage that risk or what it would cost. These are important factors especially for parents with disabilities and chronic illnesses, who will lose coverage if they can't navigate this bureaucracy successfully. Some Oklahoma parents will lose their health coverage as a result of this proposal if it's approved by the federal government. However, the proposal provides no estimates of how many. The purpose of SoonerCare is to provide access to health coverage for low-income Oklahoma families, but this proposal does not appear to consider the effect on the parents who will lose coverage under this proposal. Oklahoma families deserve to know how this proposal will impact them	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Isa Spoonheim	If we expect our children to participate in school and grow into healthy adults, having available health care is critical and basic. Please do not cut soonercare.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		God bless you as you make important decisions about health care issues.	your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Jeri Mccaslin	Being poor is not a crime to be punished by withholding healthcare to children and families in need.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Melinda Billingsley	No way, don't pass this.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Vernona Dismuke	No one should have to do a crowd fund for health care. We know that people who need SoonerCare are at the greatest risk for health issues. It makes no sense to cut their access to care. Who does that benefit? No one! Stop this!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kari Johnston	Asking our legislature to nix cutting Medicaid any more. We really need to expand coverage and not further cut it. Please rethink draconian ideas of entitlement. Have a heart and give your citizens a hand up.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Joan Seay	The waiver proposal for SoonerCare is a very bad idea. It would have a grievous impact on Oklahoma's most vulnerable population and cause great harm to many individuals and families. The waiver proposal is a deplorable idea and should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Steven Stark	I do not support work requirements for Medicaid participation. It is immoral to deny healthcare to our fellow sisters and brothers - particularly when it affects children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Bill Clifford	Maximize access. Folks need healthcare access.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Laura Skoch	I'm writing to ask that you DO NOT cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents because of work hours. I am a working Oklahoma native that believes strongly in individual responsibility. I also know that everyone needs a little help from time to time. I made use of SoonerCare for a brief time when I could not afford healthcare for my children. I was very grateful that it existed and I was able	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		to keep my family healthy until I could find a job that offered healthcare. There is a gap in what you can earn between SoonerCare and the ACA. I almost ended up in it. Please do not make this system more difficult than it already is. The paperwork is confusing and the wages allowed are too low. Requiring weekly work hours will put people over the income limit and they'll go without healthcare. We KNOW that doesn't work. This state doesn't need more stressed out, sick people. That is something we cannot afford.	
10/1/2018	William Cunningham	The current proposal appears to be an attempt to let the poor and those not passing our government's non-working judgement to die and/or spread disease among the rest of us. Your job is to help the masses.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kendra Zoellner	How can we be a state of "Christian" values and ideals if we're willing to deny impoverished children and adults access to health care? We can't say that value life and then deny thousands of people quality of life. Thousands of Oklahoma families are able to see a doctor or fill a prescription because of the state's Medicaid program, SoonerCare. Oklahoma is asking the federal government for permission to cut SoonerCare coverage for Oklahoma parents who don't report working enough hours every week. This proposal is deeply flawed and should be withdrawn. This proposal creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they'll earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare. Without other health coverage options, many of these parents will join the ranks of the uninsured, without access to primary care, care for chronic conditions, treatment for mental illness, and more. This isn't just bad for parents: it's bad for their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Fred Walker	I do not think this is right. what about the people on Medicaid who can not work. I am a care provider who spends all day and night taking care of a disabled person who I know can not do much of anything by herself and I am already doing it for free. what more does the Gov. want?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Susan Stowe	I understand we have been conditioned to believe "welfare" recipients are cheaters. I absolutely do not believe that is so. It is your job to weed out those who cheat. My Mom outlived her meager resources and was on Medicaid and for one year the Advantage program. I cannot say enough positive thing about this assistance. I do not want work requirement enacted. That sweeping statement will catch those who truly need assistance . That is not okay. Is is a dumb as saying all who recieved assistance are druggies and we know that has been found not to be true.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		Stop trying to follow the extremist beliefs if the current administration. No to work requirements in the manner you are proposing.	
10/1/2018	Joanne Flanders	Health care is important to all Oklahomans!! Please continue SoonerCare for those who need it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Aron Seymour	This is absurd	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kathleen McKean	Please reconsider the recommendation to throw children off our meager healthcare assistance rolls. Oklahoma is already one of the worst states for access to healthcare; this will only make it worse. If the state needs to save healthcare dollars, they should accept the federal dollars we are due, and then set about helping all Oklahomans get enrolled in a decent healthcare program. Practical reasons for opposing this change in our requirements: 1. It creates a lose-lose situation for parents. If they work the hours required, they will no longer qualify for assistance. We might as well just state it clearly: Oklahoma is no longer going to assist its taxpaying residents when they need it most. (And yes, every Oklahomans pays taxes. They pay every time they purchase something in a store.) 2. This proposal would, in all likelihood, lead to an expansion of state administration; after all, someone has to follow up to make sure impoverished parents are working. I would rather spend the money on actual healthcare. Thank you for your consideration.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kristen King	It is ridiculous and even cruel to attach work requirements to Medicaid recipients in our state! So many of these very low-income recipients are seriously ill or are caretakers for others. We need to be going just the opposite direction in our state, expanding Medicaid and figuring out ways for more people to access affordable health care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Robyn Tower	I strongly oppose the work requirement proposal for Oklahoma Medicaid. According to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2018l Kids Count report, Oklahoma is already one of the worst states in America to be a child. Rather than making it harder for our children to be healthy, let's work to eliminate barriers and nurture their success.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Ron Amos	This work requirement looks like just another way to try to limit health care for people who need it. Very Regressive!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
			considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Cynthia Rogers	Please evaluate the fundamentals of this proposal. As an economist, I know the importance of creating incentives and support for working parents. Human capital is our greatest asset. Health care is an essential part of strengthening human capital in our state. This plan creates an immoral Catch-22 - it makes it impossible for parents to meet work requirements and stay on sooner care. Low wage/low income earners simply cannot afford other health coverage options even with more hours of work. This policy will push more working parents into pool of uninsured. This will increase pressure on emergency rooms and other public health services.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	John Minielly	It is wrong to take away Medicaid because they cannot meet the work requirements or earn too much, although minimal, to be eligible. Almost all who can work will work if there is a job available. It is unchristian in what is supposed to be a God fearing Christian state. What would Jesus do?	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Martha Cantrell	The idea of taking away health care to the most vulnerable of our society is repulsive to me. If anything, it should be expanded. Do not require minimum working hours to qualify!!!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kelly Miranda	I am writing this letter to voice my concern. I believe is wrong for the Oklahoma Medicaid's work requirements proposal to go into effect. This will affect a lot of low income families. In my line of work I see everyday how people struggle to try to make end meet and losing medical coverage for their families will only intensify their financial struggles.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Bret Rider	Any legislative action that could harm a child in any fashion should be avoided. I do not support the proposal of denying families SoonerCare and support the withdrawal of this action as currently written. Please protect OK children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sally Frasier	Please protect Oklahoma's Children, extend Sooner Care, don't limit it!	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Margaret Wilcox	As a mother I find it inconceivable that you would cut medical coverage to those who struggle just to survive. Why are you always going after the poor and disadvantaged? Finding enough hours to work to meet this	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		demand and provide child care and transportation to do so is far more difficult than those in power (who are wealthy) can imagine. We have watched a daughter with a master's degree (and no kids) struggle to survive. Without our help she would never have been able to get medical coverage (and she ended up needing it TWICE). I am tired of giving the wealthy and corporations tax breaks while , to make up the lost revenue, you cut basic services to the most vulnerable members of our society. Most poor adults already work and to assume that they should put in MORE hours is the height of privileged arrogance.	your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Hannah Smith	Healthcare is everyone's right. No child is responsible for their parent's inability to work, and the unemployed will never be employable if they fall into a cycle of sickness and health-related debt. Making healthcare accessible is a part of creating true social mobility and encouraging democratic ideals. Gutting Medicaid might seem like it's saving money by not providing for poor people, but we will pay for these issues in long term effects on public health.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Carol Shaw	I believe we need to find a way to insure as many people as possible. The health of the public helps my health. Good health is needed for good education. Raising children and taking care of the elderly is a job. We need to improve our health system for all not limit it.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Kaitlyn Willit	This proposal punishes working families. Parents should not lose their access to healthcare just because they can't find enough work or are unable to report their work hours in the format the state demands. This proposal should be withdrawn.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	David Archung	This requirement may have good intentions, but I can only see it confusing and penalizing people in desperate need of support. If you live in rural Ok, and are without transportation, how do you search for a job. If transportation is required to get back and forth to work, no one will hire you without it. If you have kids, a minimum wage won't pay for day care or that's all it will pay for. This is a unconscionable attack on humanity.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Alan Douthitt	Please protect SoonerCare for Oklahoma families. Thank you	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Deborah Allen	Do not limit Medicare coverage any more than it is. You may eliminate a few more system cheaters, but many more innocent people, especially children, will be hurt in the process. Oklahoma has too many people falling through the cracks as it is.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
10/1/2018	Elizabeth Eickman	Oklahoma needs to abandon the work requirements and really focus on what will improve health outcomes that will help families move out of poverty. The proposed plan is punitive and will only harm Oklahoman's, particularly families. Policy makers would be well served to read the recent Kids Count report which recommends a multi-prong approach to support efforts to move two generations out of poverty. The current proposal is not the solution.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sherrie McNall	Please do not cut Medicaid further in Oklahoma. We are already at the bottom of the barrel and need to accept Medicaid for all in need, not cut one further penny.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Pam Rimmel	Our organization assists with health care needs of those without Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, VA or IHS health care. We have grave concerns about adding to the number of uninsured, which would be a result of this proposal. We partner with thirteen free/charitable health clinics that are all stretched to capacity. We work with two federally qualified health centers that are beyond capacity and unable to care for more uninsured. We believe this action would be detrimental to the health of parents and their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Pam Rimmel	Our organization assists with health care needs of those without Medicaid, Medicare, private insurance, VA or IHS health care. We have grave concerns about adding to the number of uninsured, which would be a result of this proposal. We partner with thirteen free/charitable health clinics that are all stretched to capacity. We work with two federally qualified health centers that are beyond capacity and unable to care for more uninsured. We believe this action would be detrimental to the health of parents and their children.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Sue Haskins	Do not take health care away from the most vulnerable of Oklahomans. Everyone in this country should have access to quality health care.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Doris Kupfer	People in my community use SoonerCare (Medicaid). . I worked or volunteered less than 20 hours per week last year. I do NOT support forcing parents on SoonerCare to report "employment-related activities" or volunteer work in order to maintain health coverage. Result in parents without healthcare to address family planning needs, care for preexisting conditions and general health service leading to less ability to work and function in our community. . I do NOT support this proposal because parents with inconsistent work schedules, or parents caring	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement. Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will

DATE	FROM	COMMENT	AGENCY RESPONSE AND FOLLOW UP
		for a child, sibling, or parent, could lose their coverage. See previous answer. Also I feel that this would put pressure on our emergency health and local services potentially impacting low income families and the elderly. . I do NOT support this proposal because it creates a Catch-22 for parents: if they work the hours needed to stay on SoonerCare, they may earn too much to qualify for SoonerCare.	take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	David Blatt	This is an ill-advised proposal that will inevitably lead to the loss of health coverage for people who face genuine obstacles to work or who are simply unable to provide proper documentation of their work hours. In addition, without expanding Medicaid, we are putting low-income working people in the cruel position of facing the loss of their health care if they don't work or if they do work. Please withdraw this proposal.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.
10/1/2018	Carol Roberts	Will OHCA provide child care support for mothers whose children are not in school while completing their work requirements? This would be especially cumbersome during the summer months as extended family and other support networks are often not available and employers are not able to accommodate children in the workplace.	Thank you for your feedback. OHCA considers all input seriously and will take your comments under advisement.

Comments are as of October 2, 2018.

THE GREATER TULSA AREA HISPANIC AFFAIRS COMMISSION

September 28, 2018

TO: The Oklahoma Healthcare Authority
OHCACommunityEngagement@okhca.org

RE: Public Comments Concerning Proposed Medicaid Work Requirements

The Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission is part of the Mayor's Office of Resilience and Equity. Our mission includes advocating on behalf of the Tulsa area Hispanic community. We are greatly concerned about HB 2932 through which the state is seeking to impose work requirements on Medicaid recipients, and to revoke healthcare coverage for persons who fail to meet the requirement and who do not establish an exception. This letter shall serve as our public comments requested by the Authority in opposition of the proposal. These comments are timely submitted pursuant to the extended deadline of September 30, 2018.

Our primary concern is for persons living in poverty who face losing coverage. Tulsa's Hispanic population includes a disproportionately high number of families living in poverty. For many of these families, Medicaid is the only means to obtain healthcare services for not only catastrophic disease and injury, but also everyday wellness needs and routine treatment and preventative care. Loss of Medicaid would be devastating to the health and well-being of persons in this already vulnerable population, many of whom include working parents and their children.

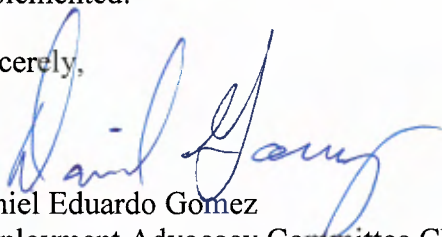
Much has been written about the general problems the work requirement proposal presents. First and foremost, it assumes that a problem exists of able-bodied persons refusing to work to obtain Medicaid benefits. There is simply nothing to support this assumption. In fact, available statistics show that of the approximately 800,000 current Medicaid recipients statewide, only 74,000 are able-bodied adults. The vast majority are children, the elderly, caretakers, and disabled persons who are unable to work. Of the able-bodied recipients, credible evidence shows that most are working (often intermittently when it can be found) or are otherwise unable to find work (including those who live in economically depressed areas). *See, e.g., Wayne Green, The state is ready to force the nonexistent horde of able-bodied adults on Medicaid to get jobs...but it won't say it'll save a dime, Tulsa World (July 22, 2018); Carly Putnam, Many devils in the details as Oklahoma moves toward a Medicaid work requirement, Oklahoma Policy Institute (May 22, 2018).*

Of particular concern is the reporting requirement. The proposal does not include specifics on how Medicaid recipients are to report work hours. Many low-income persons work day-to-day, and only if work is available. Much of this work is temporary or seasonal or is otherwise non-traditional without regular payroll. These types of jobs are difficult to verify hours worked. Our neighboring state of Arkansas was the first to implement a similar requirement and has already faced problems of persons losing coverage due to their inability to report work hours online, or the temporary, cash-based, or seasonal nature of their work. Additional problems concern sustaining exempt status for those who are required to report regularly to maintain such status. These problems are certain to arise in our state if the requirement is imposed. *See Benjamin Hardy, First, get a job; Arkansas's Medicaid work requirements begin, Arkansas Times (June 14, 2018).*

The barrier is enhanced for those who speak English as a second language, and for those who lack internet or regular telephone service. Failure to understand the requirement, or inability to comply with strict reporting standards, could result in loss of basic health care coverage. The risk is especially troubling for those who are fulfilling the requirement or who qualify for exempt status but lose coverage simply because they are unable to meet the reporting requirement. Access to an internet connection also is problematic. Census data from 2015 reflects that Oklahoma is in the bottom ten states for access to the internet. Lack of access is substantially increased for families living in poverty. The result is harm to struggling families, including those with children who could lose coverage due simply to red tape reporting requirements and barriers to compliance.

The proposal is aimed at a non-existent problem and could serve only to cause overwhelming harm to vulnerable families through loss of basic healthcare coverage. The problems the proposal presents will disproportionately affect our hard-working Hispanic community and is completely unnecessary. Our Commission is therefore asking that the work requirement proposal not be implemented.

Sincerely,



Daniel Eduardo Gomez
Employment Advocacy Committee Chair
Greater Tulsa Area Hispanic Affairs Commission
Approved by the Commission: September 13, 2018



Chairman of the Board

James J. Postl

President

Ivor J. Benjamin, MD, FAHA

Chairman-elect

Bertram L. Scott

President-elect

Robert A. Harrington, MD, FAHA

Immediate Past

Chairman of the Board

Alvin L. Royse, JD, CPA

Immediate Past President

John J. Warner, MD, FAHA

Treasurer

Raymond P. Vara, Jr.

Directors

Mary Ann Bauman, MD

Emelia J. Benjamin, MD, ScM, FAHA

Douglas S. Boyle

Keith B. Churchwell, MD, FAHA

Lloyd H. Dean

Mitchell S. V. Elkind, MD, MS, FAHA

J. Donald Fancher

Linda Gooden

Ron W. Haddock

Marsha Jones

Joseph Loscalzo, MD, PhD, FAHA

Lee Shapiro

David A. Spina

Bernard J. Tyson

Thomas Pina Windsor

Joseph C. Wu, MD, PhD, FAHA

Chief Executive Officer

Nancy A. Brown

Chief Operating Officer

Suzie Upton

Chief Science and Medical Officer

Mariell Jessup, MD, FAHA

*Chief Administrative Officer
and Corporate Secretary*

Larry D. Cannon

August 31, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

On behalf of the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association (AHA/ASA), we would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application. As the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke, we would like to express our significant concerns over the proposed changes.

The AHA represents over 100 million patients with cardiovascular disease (CVD) including many who rely on Medicaid as their primary source of care.¹ In fact, twenty-eight percent of adults with Medicaid coverage have a history of cardiovascular disease² and the Medicaid program provides critical access to prevention, treatment, disease management and care coordination services for these individuals. Because low-income populations are disproportionately affected by CVD – with these adults reporting higher rates of heart disease, hypertension, and stroke – Medicaid provides the coverage backbone for the healthcare services these individuals need.

The connection between health coverage and health outcomes is clear and well documented. Americans with CVD risk factors who lack health insurance or are underinsured, have higher mortality rates³ and poorer

¹ RTI. Projections of Cardiovascular Disease Prevalence and Costs: 2015–2035, Technical Report. http://www.heart.org/idc/groups/heart-public/@wcm/@adv/documents/downloadable/ucm_491513.pdf Accessed June 19, 2017.

² Kaiser Family Foundation. The Role Of Medicaid For People With Cardiovascular Diseases. 2012. Available at: https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/8383_cd.pdf. Accessed August 15, 2016.

³ McWilliams JM, Zaslavsky AM, Meara E, Ayanian JZ. Health insurance coverage and mortality among the near-elderly. Health Affairs 2004; 23(4): 223-233.

blood pressure control⁴ than their insured counterparts. Further, uninsured stroke patients suffer from greater neurological impairments, longer hospital stays,⁵ and a higher risk of death⁶ than similar patients covered by health insurance. Oklahoma is already ranked 43rd in the nation in health outcomes, and 48th in cardiovascular deaths.⁷ Restricting access to SoonerCare would harm Oklahomans who are already facing troubling health outcomes.

The inclusion of a work requirement to qualify for Medicaid coverage is deeply troubling to the Association. The intent of the 1115 Demonstration Wavier program is to increase access and test innovative approaches to delivering care.⁸ This provision does not appear to satisfy either requirement and could significantly harm patients, including those with CVD, by reducing their access to healthcare services both in the short and long term. To treat and prevent heart disease and stroke, it is critically important to ensure that everyone in Oklahoma – regardless of employment status – has access to affordable, quality healthcare. The Medicaid statute currently defines the factors states can consider in determining eligibility for Medicaid, such as income, citizenship and immigration status, and state residence. The statute does not include an individual's employment status or ability to work, whether they are seeking work, or their ability to engage in work-related activities as a permissible factor in determining Medicaid eligibility.⁹

Most people on Medicaid who can work, do so. Nearly 8 in 10 non-disabled adults with Medicaid coverage are members of working families, and nearly 60 percent are working themselves. Of those not working, more than one-third reported that illness or a disability was the primary reason; 28 percent reported that they were taking care of home or family; and 18 percent were in school.¹⁰

Additionally, individuals with CVD often experience lapses in employment due to their condition or may have been directed by a physician to take time away from work as part of their treatment and recovery. Therefore, participation in work or work searches as a condition of Medicaid eligibility could discriminate against these individuals and create inappropriate and unwarranted barriers to medical care.

The proposal would limit access to health care coverage for parents and caregivers making less than 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of three). The proposal lacks significant detail on how the requirement would be implemented and enforced – including clear definitions of who might be exempt from the requirement. Beneficiaries who fail to meet these requirements, however, would lose

⁴ Duru OK, Vargas RB, Kerman D, Pan D, Norris KC. Health Insurance status and hypertension monitoring and control in the United States. *Am J Hypertens* 2007;20:348-353.

⁵ Rice T, LaVarreda SA, Ponce NA, Brown ER. The impact of private and public health insurance on medication use for adults with chronic diseases. *Med Care Res Rev* 2005; 62(1): 231-249.

⁶ McWilliams JM, Meara E, Zaslavsky AM, Ayanian JZ. Health of previously uninsured adults after acquiring Medicare coverage. *JAMA*. 2007; 298:2886 –2894.

⁷ America's Health Rankings 2017 Annual Report, United Health Foundation. <https://www.america'shealthrankings.org/explore/2017-annual-report/state/OK>. Accessed August 29, 2018.

⁸ <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/section-1115-demo/index.html>

⁹ Jane Perkins, "Medicaid Work Requirements: Legally Suspect," National Health Law Program, (March 2017).

¹⁰ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work," Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2017, <http://kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>.

their coverage which places a substantial and life-threatening barrier to care for patients with cardiovascular disease.

Of additional and significant concern is the proposed Medicaid coverage termination period for non-compliance after 90 days. It is unclear how this would be implemented, meaning that those who fail to navigate new administrative requirements to report hours worked risk serious health consequences. People who are in the middle of treatment, rely on regular visits with health care providers or must take daily medications to manage their chronic conditions cannot afford a sudden gap in their care.

While the AHA/ASA understands the need to address poverty and control costs, we are concerned that the proposed changes will require a substantial state investment in infrastructure that does not align with, and could detract from, the Medicaid program's goal of providing access to care. The 2017 Federal Budget cut Labor Department funding by 21%, shifting the responsibility to states for certain job placement programs.¹¹ In addition, CMS has made it clear that it will not provide states with the authority to use Medicaid funding to finance employment related services for individuals. We are concerned that Oklahoma's 1115 waiver application has not indicated how it will provide sufficient job training, child care, transportation, and other supportive programs to enable its affected Medicaid beneficiaries to meet the proposed requirement. Without such supports, we believe that the work requirements will not in fact result in more able-bodied adults working, nor produce positive health effects.

The process of documenting eligibility and compliance is likely to create barriers to accessing or maintaining coverage for patients. Battling administrative red tape to keep coverage should not detract from a patient's focus on maintaining their or their family's health. Implementing work requirements will also necessitate new administrative processes and programs, which will require considerable financial resources that would be far better used to provide care. Furthermore, programs similar to this proposal, when implemented, have not been proven to increase employment or access to care.¹² According to the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), any employment gains that followed TANF work requirements tended to be temporary and short-lived, with limited positive effect on income.¹³ We therefore oppose this measure and strongly recommend that the state refocus its Medicaid resources on improving the health of the patients it serves, rather than imposing additional and unjustified administrative burdens with little or no proven return on investment.

The imposition of new requirements demands tedious reporting, which means more red tape for beneficiaries. Language barriers, disabilities, mental illness, insecure work opportunities, frequent moves, and temporary or chronic homelessness are more prevalent among the Medicaid population and are significant barriers to fulfilling the kinds of requirements Oklahoma is proposing. Preventing these people from obtaining

¹¹ Office of Management and budget. America First A Budget Blueprint to Make America Great Again. https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/omb/budget/fy2018/2018_blueprint.pdf

¹² Garfield, R, Rudowitz, R, Damico, A. Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief: Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work. Revised December 2017. Accessed January 5, 2018 at: <http://files.kff.org/attachment/Issue-Brief-Understanding-the-Intersection-of-Medicaid-and-Work>

¹³ Work as a Condition of Medicaid Eligibility: Key Take-Aways from TANF. MACPAC. October 2017. At: <https://www.macpac.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Work-as-a-Condition-of-Medicaid-Eligibility-Key-Take-Aways-from-TANF.pdf>

and maintaining coverage will exacerbate health disparities and barriers to care they already face which Medicaid is intended to help beneficiaries overcome. Hinging health care coverage on the ability to find and maintain work penalizes the Medicaid population for their poverty. Locking them out of coverage could perpetuate further the barriers that prevented them from holding work in the first place.

Again, the AHA encourages the state to withdraw this proposal and this policy approach to operating its Medicaid program and instead urges Oklahoma to invest funds in securing and expanding services offered to current enrollees. Thank you for reviewing our comments. We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this application. If you have any questions, please contact me at jordan.edicott@heart.org or 405.415.8135.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Endicott', written in a cursive style.

Jordan Endicott
Government Relations Director



**The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists**
WOMEN'S HEALTH CARE PHYSICIANS

Oklahoma Section

September 3, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**RE: Oklahoma Section of ACOG Comments on Oklahoma Health Care Authority's
SoonerCare Section 1115 Waiver Amendment Request**

Dear Ms. Pasternik-Ikard:

The Oklahoma Section of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), representing 325 practicing obstetrician-gynecologists (ob-gyns), welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's SoonerCare Section 1115 Waiver amendment request. As physicians dedicated to providing quality care to women, we are concerned that the proposed waiver would place certain Medicaid beneficiaries at risk for financial harm and deter our patients from seeking necessary care. Additionally, we believe that this waiver will add to physician burnout by placing more administrative hurdles in our way as we provide care to women across Oklahoma. We encourage you to reassess submitting this waiver for consideration by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

Work and Community Engagement Requirement

The complexity of the proposed work and community engagement requirements and how they interplay with the exceptions will likely increase the State's administrative burdens and costs without increasing employment rates. The experiences of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program and federal housing assistance demonstrate that imposing such requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries would result in few, if any, long-term gains in employment rates.¹ Moreover, we are deeply concerned that these requirements would lead to the loss of health care coverage for substantial numbers of people who are unable to work or face major barriers to finding and retaining employment.² While we appreciate that Oklahoma will provide some exemptions, we believe it will be incredibly burdensome for beneficiaries to report compliance with the requirements and for Medicaid employees to track whether participants are meeting the program rules.

In addition to decreasing the number of insured Oklahomans and being ineffective in increasing employment over time, these types of requirements would add considerable complexity and costs to the SoonerCare program. State experience in implementing similar TANF requirements suggests that adding such requirements to Medicaid could cost Oklahoma thousands of dollars per beneficiary.³ TANF caseworkers must spend significant amounts of time tracking and verifying clients' work activities and hours, and there is little indication that this 1115 waiver application would result in any less burden for the State's Medicaid staff.⁴ These additional costs would detract significantly from any anticipated savings and would divert much-needed funds from beneficiary care to cover these new, unnecessary administrative costs.

Retroactive Eligibility

Under current law, once an individual is determined eligible for Medicaid, coverage is effective on the first day of the month of application. Medicaid must also cover state plan-approved services obtained in three months prior to application if the individual would have been eligible during that period.⁵ With this waiver amendment request, Oklahoma seeks to end this long-standing protection for Medicaid beneficiaries.

This proposal ignores the reality that many low-income individuals do not seek health care until the need is great – not because they are irresponsible, but because they cannot afford the cost of primary or preventive care without being enrolled in Medicaid. Many low-income individuals may not know that they are eligible for Medicaid and may not seek care for a condition they can manage without medical attention until the condition becomes unmanageable. Ending retroactive eligibility will not prevent this pattern. In fact, ending retroactive eligibility may further encourage such self-imposed rationing of care because these Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries will have less opportunity to receive coverage for any health care costs they may incur while trying to nominally address their health needs, forcing them to take even more drastic measure to avoid incurring medical bills they cannot pay. As women's health care physicians, we must advocate against any policy that would jeopardize our patients' ability to access care.

Oklahoma ACOG Recommendation: Do not submit this waiver to CMS.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's SoonerCare Section 1115 Waiver amendment request. We hope you have found our comments helpful. As explained above, we believe this approach to be harmful to the health care access and service needs of Oklahoma's Medicaid beneficiaries, in general, and Oklahoma women, in particular. Should you have any questions, please contact Emily Eckert, ACOG Health Policy Analyst, at eeckert@acog.org or 202-863-2485.

Sincerely,

Lydia D. Nightingale, MD, FACOG
Chair, ACOG Oklahoma Section

Dana Stone, MD, FACOG
Legislative Liaison, ACOG Oklahoma Section

¹Hahn, H., Pratt, E., Allen, E., Kenney, G., Levy, D. K., and Waxman, E. (2017). Work requirements in social safety net programs: a status report of work requirements in TANF, SNAP, Housing Assistance, and Medicaid.

² Ibid.

³ Gayle Hamilton et al., “National evaluation of welfare-to-work strategies: how effective are different welfare-to-work approaches? Five-year adult and child impacts for eleven programs,” Manpower Demonstration Research Corporation, December 2001, Table 13.1.

⁴ Hahn, H., Pratt, E., Allen, E., Kenney, G., Levy, D. K., and Waxman, E. (2017). Work requirements in social safety net programs: A status report of work requirements in TANF, SNAP, Housing Assistance, and Medicaid.

⁵ 42 C.F.R. 435.915.

August 27, 2018

Rebecca Pasternik-Ikard
Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Ms. Pasternik-Ikard:

On behalf of the more than 30 million Americans living with diabetes and the 84 million more with prediabetes, the American Diabetes Association (ADA) provides the following comments on the State of Oklahoma's SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver.

As the global authority on diabetes, the ADA funds research to better understand, prevent and manage diabetes and its complications; publishes the world's two most respected scientific journals in the field, *Diabetes* and *Diabetes Care*; sets the standards for diabetes care; holds the world's most respected diabetes scientific and educational conferences; advocates to increase research funding, improve health care, enact public policies to stop diabetes, and end discrimination against those denied their rights because of the disease; and supports individuals and communities by connecting them with the resources they need to prevent diabetes and better manage the disease and its devastating complications.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 10.7% of adults in Oklahoma have diagnosed diabetes.ⁱ Access to affordable, adequate health coverage is critically important for all people with, and at risk for, diabetes. Adults with diabetes are disproportionately covered by Medicaid.ⁱⁱ For low-income individuals, access to Medicaid coverage is essential to managing their health. As a result of inconsistent access to Medicaid across the nation, these low-income populations experience great disparities in access to care and health status, which is reflected in geographic, race and ethnic differences in morbidity and mortality from preventable and treatable conditions.

The ADA has concerns regarding some of the provisions of the state's SoonerCare and Insure Oklahoma Waiver, and provides the following comments and recommendation to help ensure the needs of low-income individuals with diabetes and prediabetes are met by Oklahoma's Medicaid program.



1 in 11

Americans has
diabetes today.



Every **23 seconds**,
someone in the
United States
is diagnosed
with diabetes.

More than
18,000
youth are
diagnosed with
type 1 diabetes
every year.

Expanding Medicaid Eligibility

Medicaid expansion made available through the Affordable Care Act (ACA) offers promise of significantly reducing disparities in access to care and health status. Specifically, in Medicaid expansion states, more individuals are being screened for and diagnosed with diabetes than states that haven't expanded.ⁱⁱⁱ Additionally, a new study found expansion states have a higher rate of prescription fills for diabetes medications than non-expansion states.^{iv} Regular medication use with no gap in health insurance coverage leads to fewer hospitalizations and use of acute care facilities.^{v,vi} **Rather than implementing changes that impose significant barriers to obtaining and maintaining Medicaid coverage, the ADA recommends the state work to ensure all low-income individuals in Oklahoma have access to adequate, affordable health care coverage.**

Community Engagement and Work Requirements

Proposals to take health coverage away from people who do not meet new community engagement and work requirements are contrary to the goal of the Medicaid program: offering health coverage to those without access to care. Most people on Medicaid who can work, do so. Nearly eight in 10 non-disabled adults with Medicaid coverage live in working families, and nearly 60% are working themselves. Of those not working, more than one-third reported that illness or disability was the primary reason, 28% reported they were taking care of home or family, and 18% were in school.^{vii} For people who face major obstacles to employment, harsh Medicaid requirements will not help to overcome them.^{viii} In addition, research shows work requirements are not likely to have a positive impact on long-term employment.^{ix} Instead, instituting a work requirement would lead to higher uninsured rates and higher emergency room visits by uninsured individuals who would have been eligible for Medicaid coverage, and increase the administrative burden for the state and its Medicaid managed care plans.^{x,xi}

A study by the National Bureau of Economic Research concluded Medicaid coverage increases utilization of primary and preventative services, lowers out-of-pocket medical spending and medical debt, and results in better self-reported physical and mental health.^{xii} In addition, Medicaid enrollees are 15% more likely to be screened for diabetes than someone who is uninsured.^{xiii} CDC data show prevention programs and early detection can prevent the onset of type 2 diabetes and reduce state spending.^{xiv} As Oklahoma's cut off for Medicaid eligibility is at 43% of the federal poverty level, implementation of work requirements will not create an avenue out of poverty, but rather push individuals into the coverage gap, making healthcare coverage unaffordable and inaccessible. Oklahoma's proposal to limit access to Medicaid services through work requirements will decrease access to care for low-income Oklahoma residents and increase state health care costs.

Administrative Barriers and Burdens

Increasing the administrative requirements to maintain eligibility will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, even for those who meet the requirements or qualify for an exemption. An analysis of expected Medicaid disenrollment rates after implementation of work

requirements shows most disenrollment would be due to administrative burdens or red tape.^{xv} Research shows 30% of Medicaid adults report they never use a computer, 28% do not use the internet, and 41% do not use email.^{xvi} These technological burdens will have unintended consequences, creating a barrier for gaining a job, as well as complying with the onerous reporting requirements. In addition, Medicaid enrollees who are working may experience difficulty obtaining the required documentation from their employer on a timely basis. Even though they meet the proposed requirements, their inability to provide timely documentation could result in them losing Medicaid coverage.

Diabetes is a complex, chronic illness that requires continuous medical care,^{xvii} so Medicaid enrollees with diabetes cannot afford a sudden gap in health insurance coverage. A recent study found that patients with type 1 diabetes who experience a gap or interruption in coverage, are five times more likely to use acute care services (i.e. urgent care facilities or emergency departments).^{xviii} Through adding administrative barriers and burdens, this waiver proposal will impede access to health services that Oklahoma residents with diabetes need.

Conclusion

Research shows work requirements are not likely to have a positive impact on long-term employment.^{xix} Instead, instituting a work requirement would lead to higher uninsured rates and higher emergency room visits by uninsured Americans who would have been eligible for Medicaid coverage, and increase the administrative burden for the state and its Medicaid managed care plans. **We strongly urge the state to retract the SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma Section 1115 Demonstration Waiver as it creates barriers to accessible, affordable, and adequate healthcare for low-income Oklahomans with diabetes who rely on the program. The ADA urges the state to instead work to extend eligibility to adults earning up to 138% of the federal poverty level, which is shown to improve access to care and improve health.**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments on behalf of Oklahoma residents with diabetes and prediabetes. Our comments include numerous citations to supporting research, including direct links to the research for the benefit of the Agency in reviewing our comments. We direct the Agency to each of the studies cited – made available through active hyperlinks – and we request that the full text of each of the studies cited, along with the full text of our comments, be considered part of the administrative record in this matter for purposes of the Administrative Procedure Act. If you have any questions, please contact me at cfallabel@diabetes.org or (800-676-4065x7016).

Sincerely,

Christine Fallabel, MPH
Director of State Government Affairs & Advocacy, Oklahoma



ⁱ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Diagnosed Diabetes. Available at:

<https://gis.cdc.gov/grasp/diabetes/DiabetesAtlas.html>

ⁱⁱ Kaiser Commission on Medicaid and the Uninsured, The Role of Medicaid for People with Diabetes, November 2012. Available at http://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/8383_d.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Kaufman H., Chen Z., Fonseca V. and McPhaul M., “Surge in Newly Identified Diabetes Among Medicaid Patients in 2014 Within Medicaid Expansion States Under the Affordable Care Act,” Diabetes Care, March 2015. Available at: <http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/early/2015/03/19/dc14-2334>

^{iv} Myerson R., Tianyi L., Tonnu-Mihara I., and Huang E.S., Health Affairs, Medicaid Eligibility Expansions May Address Gaps in Access to Diabetes Medications, August 2018. Available at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/pdf/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.0154>

^v Id.

^{vi} Rogers M, Lee J, Tipirneni R, Banerjee T, and Kim C, Health Affairs, Interruptions in Private Health Insurance and Outcomes In Adults with Type 1 Diabetes: A Longitudinal Study. July 2018. Available at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.0204>

^{vii} Garfield R, Rudowitz R and Damico A, Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work, Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2017, available at: <http://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>.

^{viii} Goodnough A, The Adults a Medicaid Work Requirement Would Leave Behind, The New York Times, February 25, 2017, available at: <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/25/health/medicaid-work-requirement.html>.

^{ix} Kaiser Family Foundation, Are Uninsured Adults Who Could Gain Medicaid Coverage Working?, February 2015, available at <http://kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/are-uninsured-adults-who-could-gain-medicaid-coverage-working/>.

^x Rector R, Work Requirements in Medicaid Won’t Work. Here’s a Serious Alternative, Heritage Foundation, March 2017, available at: <http://www.heritage.org/health-care-reform/commentary/work-requirements-medicaid-wont-work-heres-serious-alternative>.

^{xi} Katch H, Medicaid Work Requirements Would Limit Health Care Access Without Significantly Boosting Employment, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 2016, available at: <http://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-work-requirement-would-limit-health-care-access-without-significantly>.

^{xii} National Bureau of Economic Research, The Medicaid Program, July 2015, available at: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w21425.pdf>.

^{xiii} Kaiser Family Foundation, The Role of Medicaid for People with Diabetes, November 2012, available at: https://kaiserfamilyfoundation.files.wordpress.com/2013/01/8383_d.pdf

^{xiv} Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, At A Glance 2016, available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/resources/publications/aag/pdf/2016/nccdphp-aag.pdf>

^{xv} Kaiser Family Foundation, Implications of Work Requirements in Medicaid: What Does the Data Say?, June 2018, available at: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-work-requirements-in-medicaid-what-does-the-data-say/>

^{xvi} Kaiser Family Foundation, Implications of Work Requirements in Medicaid: What Does the Data Say?, June 2018, available at: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-work-requirements-in-medicaid-what-does-the-data-say/>

^{xvii} American Diabetes Association, Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes – 2018, Diabetes Care, January 2018, available at: http://care.diabetesjournals.org/content/41/Supplement_1.

^{xviii} Rogers, Mary A.M., Joyce M. Lee, Renuka Tipirneni, Tanima Banerjee, and Catherine Kim, Interruptions in Private Health Insurance and outcomes in Adults with Type 1 Diabetes: A Longitudinal Study, July 2018. Available at: <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/abs/10.1377/hlthaff.2018.0204>

^{xix} Kaiser Family Foundation, Are Uninsured Adults Who Could Gain Medicaid Coverage Working?, February 2015, available at: <http://kff.org/medicaid/fact-sheet/are-uninsured-adults-who-could-gain-medicaid-coverage-working/>.

September 3, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

RE: 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Application

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

The Arthritis Foundation appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application.

The Arthritis Foundation is the Champion of Yes. Leading the fight for the arthritis community, the Foundation helps conquer everyday battles through life-changing information and resources, access to optimal care, advancements in science and community connections. We work on behalf of the over 800,000 people in Oklahoma who live with the chronic pain of arthritis every day.

The Arthritis Foundation believes healthcare should be affordable, accessible and adequate. The purpose of the Medicaid program is to provide affordable healthcare coverage for low-income individuals and families. Unfortunately, Oklahoma's application does not meet this objective and will instead create new administrative barriers that jeopardize access to healthcare for patients with arthritis.

SoonerCare, Oklahoma's Medicaid program, covers parents and caretakers and disabled individuals with incomes at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of 3). The proposed waiver amendment seeks to add new barriers to accessing coverage. Individuals between the ages of 19 and 50 would be required to either demonstrate that they work at least 80 hours per month or meet exemptions. One major consequence of this proposal will be to increase the administrative burden on all patients. Individuals will need to attest that they meet certain exemptions or have worked the required number of hours on a monthly basis.

Increasing administrative requirements will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, regardless of whether they are exempt or not. For example, Arkansas is currently implementing a similar policy requiring Medicaid enrollees to report their hours worked or their exemption. According to the state's own report on the second month of implementation, 5,426 individuals did not meet the reporting requirement for two consecutive months and are at risk of losing coverage on September 1, at which point they would be locked out of coverage until January 2019.ⁱ An additional 6,531 individuals did meet the reporting requirement for one month and also remain at risk for losing their coverage.ⁱⁱ Similarly, after Washington state changed its renewal process from every twelve months to every six months and instituted new documentation requirements in 2003, approximately 35,000 fewer children were enrolled in the program by the end of 2004.ⁱⁱⁱ Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from patients' or caregivers' focus on maintaining their or their family's health.

Failing to navigate these burdensome administrative requirements could have serious – even life or death – consequences for people with serious, acute and chronic diseases, including arthritis. If the state finds that individuals have failed to comply with the new requirements for three months, they will be locked out of coverage until the individual is able to meet the requirement. People who are in the middle of treatment for a life-threatening disease, rely on regular visits with healthcare providers or must take daily medications to manage their chronic conditions cannot afford a sudden gap in their care.

The Arthritis Foundation is concerned that the current exemption criteria may not capture all individuals with, or at risk of, serious and chronic health conditions that prevent them from meeting these requirements. While the Arthritis Foundation is pleased that patients will have the option to demonstrate that they qualify for an exemption through self-attestation, the reporting process still creates opportunities for administrative error that could jeopardize coverage. No exemption criteria can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

Ultimately, the requirements outlined in this waiver do not further the goals of the Medicaid program or help low-income individuals improve their circumstances without needlessly compromising their access to care. Most people on Medicaid who can work already do so.^{iv} A recent study, published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, looked at the employment status and characteristics of Michigan's Medicaid enrollees.^v The study found only about a quarter were unemployed (27.6 percent). Of this 27.6 percent of enrollees, two thirds reported having a chronic physical condition and a quarter reported having a mental or physical condition that interfered with their ability to work.

People with arthritis live with uncertainty every day and count on comprehensive health care to appropriately manage their disease. Significant administrative burdens on top of managing the complexities of their disease is an additional complicating factor. As proposed, inclusion of work requirements in Oklahoma's Medicaid program would exacerbate these challenges and run counter to the important role of Medicaid in providing access to needed health care. For questions or for more information, please reach out to Ben Chandhok, State Policy Director at the Arthritis Foundation, at bchandhok@arthritis.org.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Chandhok

Ben Chandhok
State Policy Director
Arthritis Foundation

ⁱ Joan Alker and Maggie Clark, "After Two Months Under New Work Requirements, Thousands of Arkansans May Lose Medicaid Without Even Realizing the Rules Changed," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families. August 15, 2018. Accessed at: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/15/after-two-months-under-new-work-requirements-thousands-of-arkansans-may-lose-medicaid-without-even-realizing-the-rules-changed/>.

^{iv} Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Arkansas Works Program, July 2018 Report. Accessed at: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/081418_AWReport_July.pdf.

^v Tricia Brooks, "Data Reporting to Assess Enrollment and Retention in Medicaid and SCHIP," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, January 2009.

^{iv} Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work," Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2017, <http://kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>.

^v Renuka Tipirneni, Susan D. Goold, John Z. Ayanian. Employment Status and Health Characteristics of Adults With Expanded Medicaid Coverage in Michigan. *JAMA Intern Med*. Published online December 11, 2017. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2017.7055



August 30, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard, Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Ms. Pasternik-Ikard:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on your proposal “1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Community Engagement Amendment”. The Georgetown University Center for Children and Families (CCF) is an independent, nonpartisan policy and research center based at the McCourt School for Public Policy with a mission to support access to high-quality, comprehensive and affordable health coverage for all of America’s children and families. We conduct research and examine policy options from the perspective of how they will impact children and families – especially those living in or near poverty.

On July 3, 2018, the state of Oklahoma posted for public comment a Section 1115 Medicaid demonstration waiver amendment that would impose a work requirement on SoonerCare parents and caregivers. Under the proposal, parents and caregivers would be required to document 20 hours/week of work or participation in job-training and volunteer activities in order to maintain their SoonerCare coverage unless they receive an exemption.

While we appreciate the opportunity to comment, we note that the proposal does not provide sufficient information for the public to understand the proposal and provide meaningful input. In particular, the proposal states, at p. 14, that “the State expects to realize a decline in SoonerCare adult enrollment over the course of the demonstration period.” However, the proposal does not provide an estimate of the size or rate of this decline, and the Budget Neutrality attachment does not enable the public to make its own calculations. The failure to provide this enrollment information violates the spirit if not the letter of the federal regulations at 42 CFR 431.408.

As you may be aware, we recently released a report that examined the proposal. According to our analysis, parents who comply with the work requirement and work 25 hours per week or more but remain below the poverty line would be caught in a “Catch 22” situation: They would earn too much to be eligible for SoonerCare and would subsequently lose their coverage. If they don’t comply with the work requirement, they would also lose coverage. Most of these parents would become uninsured.

This loss of coverage would negatively affect their children as well, as we detail in the report. Oklahoma already has the 5th highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, far higher than the national average, and the rate is even higher among American Indian children. This proposal has the potential to exacerbate this already undesirable situation.



Georgetown University
Health Policy Institute
CENTER FOR CHILDREN
AND FAMILIES



We are submitting the full report with the results of this analysis for your consideration. One key finding to note is that families living in rural areas and small towns would be disproportionately harmed by your proposal, as adults and children living in these areas are more likely to receive their health care through Medicaid, and unemployment rates are higher in many of these counties.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments and the report. If any additional information is required, please contact Joan Alker (jca25@georgetown.edu) or Olivia Pham (olivia.pham@georgetown.edu).

Sincerely,

Joan Alker

Research Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University and Executive
Director of the Georgetown University Center for Children and Families



New Waiver Proposal for Oklahoma Medicaid Beneficiaries Would Harm Low-Income Families With Children

Key Findings

- Oklahoma's proposed Medicaid waiver is incomplete and internally inconsistent on the most important question: how many parents and children may lose coverage. Despite the fact that one of the stated goals is to reduce Medicaid enrollment, the proposal projects there will be no impact on enrollment.
- The new work rules would predominantly affect Oklahoma's poorest mothers. The impact could hit hardest in Oklahoma's small towns and rural communities, where parents are more likely to receive Medicaid and where jobs are harder to find.
- Even if these parents work more hours, they are unlikely to have an affordable offer of health coverage from their employers, so will likely become uninsured. Only 11 percent of Oklahoma adults living in poverty receive employer-sponsored insurance.
- The loss of coverage for parents would affect their children, creating more financial hardship for families and risking children's access to health care. Oklahoma already has the 5th highest rate of uninsured children in the nation, and the rate is even higher among American Indian children.

Introduction

Oklahoma is planning to ask federal permission to impose a work requirement on very low-income parents and caregivers receiving health coverage through Medicaid. Under the proposal, these beneficiaries would have to document that they are working at least 20 hours a week or participating in job-training or volunteer activities in order to maintain their SoonerCare coverage. Because Oklahoma has not expanded Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, the only parents affected are those whose incomes are at or below 45 percent or the federal poverty level. The impact of the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's proposal could mean some of the state's poorest parents would lose health coverage altogether. And that loss of coverage would affect their children, who may lose coverage, as well.

Oklahoma's proposal *asserts that there will be no impact on Medicaid spending or enrollment* if the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approve the request to amend the state's Section 1115 demonstration waiver.¹ This contradicts assertions made elsewhere in the proposal that the goal is to reduce Medicaid enrollment.² Moreover, it is clear from research based on the experience of work requirements in other programs and other states that significant coverage losses are likely. Nationally, an analysis by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that work rules could cause an estimated 1.4 million to 4 million adults to lose Medicaid coverage. Many of these adults are already working and meet the requirements, but would lose access to health care because of "administrative burdens or red tape."³ In Arkansas, for instance, 72 percent of the people expected to log into the state's web portal and report their work did not take action in the first month.⁴



Participants in Arkansas must submit their information on line, which can be a challenge in a state where many of the poorest residents lack access to computers or the internet.⁵

The impact of Oklahoma's proposal, which could take effect as early as February 2019, would fall disproportionately on the poorest families. The state's own estimates show that three-fifths of the parents who received SoonerCare in recent months had incomes at 20 percent or below the federal poverty line, meaning they bring in no more than \$4,156 annually or \$346 a month. The state asserts that only about 6,200 people would be affected by the new work rules, after exempting parents who have children under 6, are pregnant or American Indians, among others.⁶ But the exemption language is vague, and it's not clear that an exemption for American Indians would pass muster with CMS's legal counsel, an issue that remains in flux.⁷ It is also not clear how the exemption process would work. The resulting bureaucratic maze could cause thousands to lose coverage.

If Oklahoma pursues this option, it would become the latest of 14 states seeking to attach new rules to Medicaid eligibility. Federal officials announced in January that they would allow work requirements for adult Medicaid beneficiaries and have given approval to such measures in four states: Arkansas, Kentucky, New Hampshire, and Indiana—although a federal judge has sent Kentucky's plan back to CMS, calling it "arbitrary and capricious."⁸ These states all expanded Medicaid after passage of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and now offer benefits to adults making as much as 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). By contrast, Oklahoma allows only those parents living at or below 45 percent of the poverty line to qualify for Medicaid. That's the equivalent of \$9,351 a year for a family of three, or \$779 a month.

These parents could still qualify for Medicaid if they worked just 20 hours a week at minimum wage. But if they worked 25 hours a week, got a raise or just picked up a couple of extra shifts, they would become ineligible. The nature of part time work is often unpredictable, depending on the season or cyclical demands of employers. Likewise, these very-low income families already move on and off Medicaid as their circumstances shift. In Oklahoma, barely a third of the eligible parents are enrolled all year; the typical tenure on the program is seven months.⁹

Oklahoma's proposal provides no mechanism for recording or confirming work hours for the parent population. Hence, documenting that each parent receiving Medicaid has worked just the right amount of hours every month would become an expensive, bureaucratic hassle for the parents and the state. In fact, Kentucky saw its Medicaid administrative costs climb more than 40 percent this year in part because of putting work requirements in place.¹⁰

Another concern is what's known as the "Catch-22," in which parents make too much to receive Medicaid but not enough to qualify for ACA marketplace subsidies or those the state provides to some workers living just above the poverty line. CMS Administrator Seema Verma has identified this issue as a problem as well.¹¹ Oklahoma allows adults who make 105 percent FPL, about \$21,000 annually, to receive premium assistance through Insure Oklahoma. There are limitations on that program: For instance, the state assistance would only go to workers at companies with fewer than 250 employers that do not have employer sponsored insurance.¹² Oklahoma's proposal provides no attempt to address this issue.

“The proposal also does nothing to address the barriers these very poor families face in seeking employment.”

The proposal also does nothing to address the barriers these very poor families face in seeking employment. Even if these parents found jobs or volunteer opportunities, they would have to pay for childcare and transportation—costs that could not be covered under Medicaid. And if they made too much to qualify for Medicaid, they would likely be hard-pressed to afford private insurance if it is offered by employers. Only 11 percent of Oklahoma adults living in poverty currently receive employer-sponsored insurance.¹³

Oklahoma's waiver proposal suggests that their work requirement will decrease the need for hospital stays and emergency room visits for very poor parents who receive Medicaid. However, there is no evidence or compelling rationale to support this. Moreover, if these parents lose health coverage altogether, they may be more likely to use the emergency room. Oklahoma officials also assert that the work requirement will help beneficiaries "achieve improved health, well-being and independence." But this seems backwards: Research shows that good health coverage can lead to fuller employment.

Studies of American workers who gained health coverage through the Medicaid expansion found that coverage made it easier to work. About 52 percent of the Ohio residents who enrolled in Medicaid after the expansion said it was easier to secure and maintain employment.¹⁴

A study in Michigan documented that many adults benefitting from the expansion were already working or in school. Nearly three-quarters of those who were out of work were living with a chronic health condition.¹⁵ Stripping these adults of their health coverage won't make it any easier to find and retain a job.

Oklahoma's work requirement could impose unnecessary red tape and barriers to health coverage that would leave these parents without the support they need to hold down a job. Rather than helping parents find jobs, this proposal seems aimed at reducing Medicaid enrollment by creating red-tape barriers to coverage.

Who Would Be Affected?

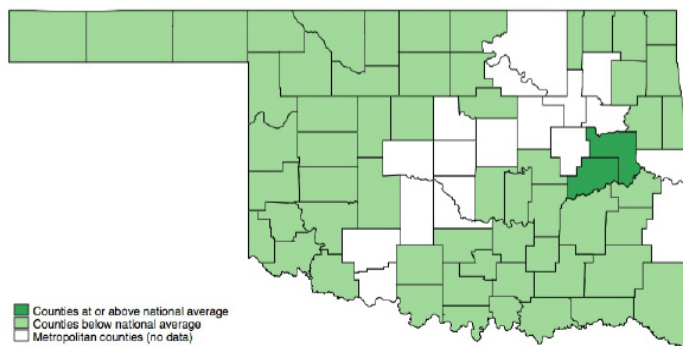
An analysis of the population of parents and caretakers who now rely on Medicaid for health coverage in Oklahoma finds that¹⁶:

- 78 percent are mothers;
- 64 percent are white, 19 percent are African American, and 7 percent are American Indians;
- 39 percent are young parents under age 30;
- 85 percent have been in the workforce or have a family member working sometime in the past six months.¹⁷

A separate analysis suggests that the proposal would hit harder in Oklahoma's small towns and rural communities, where families are more likely to be covered by Medicaid and jobs are harder to find.¹⁸

- In Oklahoma, about 11 percent of adults in these communities are covered by Medicaid, compared to 8 percent in urban areas.
- Among children, 47 percent in Oklahoma's small towns and rural communities have Medicaid coverage, compared to 38 percent in metropolitan areas—a disparity that's greater than the national average.
- Jobs remain harder to find in these communities. Nine of the 10 Oklahoma counties with the highest unemployment rates in 2016 were rural counties.

Percent of Adults with Medicaid Coverage in Small Towns and Rural Areas, by County, 2014/15



Note: The national weighted average for percent of adults with Medicaid coverage in small towns and rural areas is 16%.

Source: For more information on sources and methodology, see The Georgetown Center for Children and Families and the University of North Carolina's report, *Medicaid in Small Towns and Rural America: A Lifeline for Children, Families, and Communities*.



Children Will Suffer When Their Parents Lose Coverage

More than 510,000 Oklahoma children receive health coverage through Medicaid and CHIP, but if their parents lose access to health care, it could affect the children, as well.

- *Oklahoma's rate of uninsured children at 7.3 percent is already one of the highest in the nation, far above the 4.5 percent national average.* The proposal makes it more likely that the rate of uninsured children will worsen, especially if the state is not allowed to exempt the American Indian population. The rates of uninsured children remain highest among American Indian children living in the poorest families: 15.6 percent of these children are uninsured, more than double the rate for white or African American children in such families.¹⁹
- *As parents become uninsured, the entire family is at risk of falling further into poverty because of medical debt or bankruptcy.* Medicaid improves families' economic security and financial well-being and gives children a better chance for the future.²⁰
- *A healthier parent is more likely to be a better parent.* Parents with access to health care can do a better job supporting and nurturing their children's healthy development. Maternal depression, for instance, can be treated with Medicaid coverage. Without treatment, though, depression can inhibit parent-child bonding in the critical early years of development.
- *Children with uninsured parents are less likely to receive the health care they need and more likely to be uninsured.* In some cases, they remain insured but don't visit a doctor regularly. In other instances, they lose their coverage and access to healthcare. Research has shown that when a parent is uninsured, a child is much more likely to be uninsured.²¹

Conclusion

Oklahoma's amendment to its three-year Section 1115 demonstration application is currently open for public comment at the state level until September 3, 2018. After that, the state will revise its proposal and, if it decided to proceed, submit it to the federal government which also must hold a 30-day public comment period. Although CMS has issued guidance encouraging states to establish work requirements in Medicaid and has granted approval to four states, the federal agency has yet to decide on a waiver involving a state that did not accept the Medicaid expansion provided in the Affordable Care Act. One of the expansion states that received approval, Kentucky, is on hold following a legal challenge.

Oklahoma's waiver request lacks important details and is internally inconsistent, promising to reduce Medicaid enrollment while asserting that the proposed policy will have no impact on enrollment or on its budget. It provides few details on how this complicated policy change would be implemented.

If approved, the proposal could upset the financial balance for Oklahoma's most fragile families, many of them already struggling to provide adequate housing, food and clothing for their children. Stripping these mothers of their health coverage could make them less likely to work, not more. Rather it could deepen the lack of health care for adults and children and disproportionately affect American Indians and families living in small towns and rural areas.

P. 15 of OHCA SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request, accessed on July 10, 2018 at <http://okhca.org/xPolicyChange.aspx?id=22257&blogid=68505>.

² See for example p. 14, *ibid*.

³ Garfield, Rachel, Robin Rudowitz and MaryBeth Musumeci. "Implications of a Medicaid Work Requirement: National Estimates of Potential Coverage Losses." (Washington: Kaiser Family Foundation, June 2018) accessed at <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-a-medicaid-work-requirement-national-estimates-of-potential-coverage-losses/>.

⁴ Alker, Joan and Maggie Clark, "One Month into Medicaid Work Requirement in Arkansas, Warning Lights are Already Flashing," (Washington: Center for Children and Families, July 20, 2018) accessed at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/07/20/one-month-into-arkansas-medicaid-work-requirement-the-warning-lights-are-already-flashing/>.

⁵ *Ibid*.

⁶ P. 15 of OHCA SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request, accessed on July 10, 2018 at <http://okhca.org/xPolicyChange.aspx?id=22257&blogid=68505>.

⁷ Diamond, Dan, "Trump challenges Native Americans Historical Standing," (Washington: Politico, April 22, 2018) accessed at <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/22/trump-native-americans-historical-standing-492794>.

⁸ "Kentucky Medicaid Waiver Scheme Halted by Federal Court," (Washington: National Health Law Program, June 29, 2018) accessed at <http://www.healthlaw.org/news/press-releases/735-kentucky-medicaid-waiver-scheme-halted-by-federal-court>.

⁹ Putnam, Carly, "Bill Watch: Legislation threatens to cut Oklahomans' access to health care," (Tulsa: Oklahoma Policy Center, Feb. 15, 2018) accessed at <https://okpolicy.org/bill-watch-legislation-threatens-cut-oklahomans-access-health-care/>.

¹⁰ "Fitch: Medicaid Waiver Actions Limit US States' Cost Controls," (New York: Fitch Ratings, July 17, 2018) accessed at <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/pr/10038515>.

¹¹ V. Dickson, "CMS Warns Non-Expansion States to Rethink Medicaid Work Rules," Modern Healthcare (May 1, 2018) available at <http://www.modernhealthcare.com/article/20180501/NEWS/180509987>.

¹² Criteria for the Insure Oklahoma program can be accessed at <http://www.insureoklahoma.org/OIndividuals.aspx?id=3900>.

¹³ "Health Insurance Coverage of the Nonelderly (0-64) with Incomes below 100% Federal Poverty Level (FPL), (Washington: Kaiser Family Foundation, 2016) Accessed at <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/nonelderly-up-to-139-fpl/?currentTimeframe=0&selectedRows=%7B%22states%22:%7B%22mississippi%22:%7B%7D%7D%7D&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%7B%22location%22,%7B%22sort%22:%7B%22asc%22%7D>.

¹⁴ Anthes, Loren, "The Return on Investment of Medicaid Expansion: Supporting Work and Health in Rural Ohio" (Washington: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, January 2017), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2017/01/10/the-return-on-investment-of-medicaid-expansion-supporting-work-and-health-in-rural-ohio/>.

¹⁵ Alker, Joan, "Michigan Medicaid Evaluation Has Important Lessons for States Considering Work Requirements," (Washington: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, January 2017), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2017/12/15/michigan-medicaid-evaluation-has-important-lessons-for-states-considering-work-requirements/>.

¹⁶ These estimates are based on an analysis of American Community Survey (ACS) data. We use an augmented version of the 2015 and 2016 ACS, the Integrated Public Use Microdata Series (IPUMS), prepared by the University of Minnesota Population Center (IPUMS-USA, University of Minnesota, www.ipums.org). We establish two-year state-level estimates of health coverage and demographic characteristics for parents. Parents are between 19 and 64 years old, have a child who is under 19 years old, are covered through Medicaid, and live in a household with income below 47% FPL. Individuals receiving supplementary security income and individuals for whom poverty status could not be determined are excluded.

¹⁷ Employment information was derived from data compiled by the Oklahoma Health Care Authority.

¹⁸ J. Hoadley et al., "Medicaid in Small Towns and Rural America: A Lifeline for Children, Families, and Communities" (Washington: Center for Children and Families and University of North Carolina, June 2017), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Rural-health-final.pdf>.

¹⁹ Oklahoma's rate of uninsured children was retrieved from J. Alker and O. Pham, "Nation's Uninsured Rate for Children Drops to Another Historic Low in 2016" (Washington: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, September 2017), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2017/09/22/nationwide-rate-of-uninsured-children-reaches-historic-low/>.

²⁰ K. Wagnerman, "Medicaid: How Does It Provide Economic Security for Families?" (Washington: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families, March 2017), available at <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Medicaid-and-Economic-Security.pdf>.

²¹ M. Karpmann and G. Kenney. "Quicktake: Health Insurance Coverage for Children and Parents: Changes Between 2013 and 2017" (Washington: The Urban Institute, September 7, 2017), available at <http://hrms.urban.org/quicktakes/health-insurance-coverage-children-parents-march-2017.html>.

The Oklahoma Policy Institute is a non-partisan independent policy think tank that was launched in early 2008, growing out of work that had previously been conducted by the public policy department of Community Action Project of Tulsa County. Visit <https://okpolicy.org>.

3300 Whitehaven Street, NW, Suite 5000
Washington, DC 20057-1485
Phone: (202) 687-0880
Email: childhealth@georgetown.edu





August 31, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Re: 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

The Epilepsy Foundation and Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma appreciate the opportunity to comment on the 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application.

The Epilepsy Foundation is the leading national voluntary health organization that speaks on behalf of the at least 3.4 million Americans with epilepsy and seizures, including the more than 41,000 individuals in Oklahoma. We foster the wellbeing of children and adults affected by seizures through research programs, educational activities, advocacy, and direct services. Epilepsy is a medical condition that produces seizures affecting a variety of mental and physical functions. Approximately 1 in 26 Americans will develop epilepsy at some point in their lifetime, and more than one third of people living with epilepsy rely on Medicaid for their health coverage, including many children and those with the severest forms of epilepsy who cannot gain seizure control.

The Epilepsy Foundation and Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma believe healthcare should be affordable, accessible and adequate. The purpose of the Medicaid program is to provide affordable healthcare coverage for low-income individuals and families. Unfortunately, Oklahoma's application does not meet this objective and will instead create new administrative barriers that jeopardize access to healthcare for patients with epilepsy.

SoonerCare, Oklahoma's Medicaid program, covers parents and caretakers and disabled individuals with incomes at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of 3). The proposed waiver amendment seeks to add new barriers to accessing coverage. Individuals between the ages of 19 and 50 would be required to either demonstrate that they work at least 80 hours per month or meet exemptions. One major consequence of this proposal will be to increase the administrative burden on all patients. Individuals will need to attest that they meet certain exemptions or have worked the required number of hours on a monthly basis.

Increasing administrative requirements will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, regardless of whether they are exempt or not. For example, Arkansas is currently implementing a similar policy requiring Medicaid enrollees to report their hours worked or their exemption. According to the state's own report on the second month of implementation, 5,426 individuals did not meet the reporting requirement for two consecutive months and are at risk of losing coverage on September 1, at which point they would be locked out of coverage until January 2019.¹ An



additional 6,531 individuals did meet the reporting requirement for one month and also remain at risk for losing their coverage.ⁱⁱ Similarly, after Washington state changed its renewal process from every twelve months to every six months and instituted new documentation requirements in 2003, approximately 35,000 fewer children were enrolled in the program by the end of 2004.ⁱⁱⁱ Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from patients' or caregivers' focus on maintaining their or their family's health.

Failing to navigate these burdensome administrative requirements could have serious – even life or death – consequences for people with serious, acute and chronic diseases, including epilepsy. If the state finds that individuals have failed to comply with the new requirements for three months, they will be locked out of coverage until the individual is able to meet the requirement. People who are in the middle of treatment for a life-threatening disease, rely on regular visits with healthcare providers or must take daily medications to manage their chronic conditions cannot afford a sudden gap in their care.

The Epilepsy Foundation and Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma are concerned that the current exemption criteria may not capture all individuals with, or at risk of, serious and chronic health conditions that prevent them from meeting these requirements. While we are pleased that patients will have the option to demonstrate that they qualify for an exemption through self-attestation, the reporting process still creates opportunities for administrative error that could jeopardize coverage. No exemption criteria can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

Ultimately, the requirements outlined in this waiver do not further the goals of the Medicaid program or help low-income individuals improve their circumstances without needlessly compromising their access to care. Most people on Medicaid who can work already do so.^{iv} A recent study, published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, looked at the employment status and characteristics of Michigan's Medicaid enrollees.^v The study found only about a quarter were unemployed (27.6 percent). Of this 27.6 percent of enrollees, two thirds reported having a chronic physical condition and a quarter reported having a mental or physical condition that interfered with their ability to work.

Lack of Key Information

The Epilepsy Foundation and Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma are troubled, as the waiver application lacks key information. There is little detail on how the new requirements will be implemented and enforced, but more troubling, the application claims the proposal will have no impact on enrollment as part of the budget neutrality assumption. The proposal does not predict the impact of the waiver on enrollment (with or without waiver baseline) or cost savings over 5 years. The federal rules at 431.408 pertaining to state public comment process require at (a)(1)(i)(C) that a state include an estimate of the expected increase or decrease in annual enrollment and expenditures if applicable. The intent of this section of the regulations is to allow the public to comment on a Section 1115 proposal with adequate information to assess its impact. In order to meet these transparency requirements, Oklahoma must include these projections and their impact on budget neutrality. If Oklahoma intends to move ahead with this proposal, the state should at a minimum provide the required information to the public and reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.

The Epilepsy Foundation and Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma believe everyone should have access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage. Oklahoma's 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma



1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application does not advance that goal.
Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jenniafer Walters".

Jenniafer Walters
Executive Director
Epilepsy Foundation of Oklahoma

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Philip M. Gattone".

Philip M. Gattone, M.Ed.
President & CEO
Epilepsy Foundation

ⁱ Joan Alker and Maggie Clark, "After Two Months Under New Work Requirements, Thousands of Arkansans May Lose Medicaid Without Even Realizing the Rules Changed," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families. August 15, 2018. Accessed at: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/15/after-two-months-under-new-work-requirements-thousands-of-arkansans-may-lose-medicaid-without-even-realizing-the-rules-changed/>.

ⁱⁱ Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Arkansas Works Program, July 2018 Report. Accessed at: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/081418_AWReport_July.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tricia Brooks, "Data Reporting to Assess Enrollment and Retention in Medicaid and SCHIP," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, January 2009.

^{iv} Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work," Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2017, <http://kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>.

^v Renuka Tipirneni, Susan D. Goold, John Z. Ayanian. Employment Status and Health Characteristics of Adults With Expanded Medicaid Coverage in Michigan. *JAMA Intern Med*. Published online December 11, 2017. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2017.7055



September 30, 2018

To Oklahoma Health Care Authority,

In regards to the Medicaid work requirements; this would potentially impact Emergency departments (ED), especially rural Emergency departments.

- In theory, it is a good idea, tightening up Medicaid criteria...however we are concerned about unintended consequences.
- We are especially concerned about rural areas where jobs are difficult to find.
- If people lose Medicaid coverage, they will go to our already busy Emergency departments.
- Their care will cost considerably more than it would in a clinic.
- This patient population needs more longitudinal care, from a population health point of view, they won't get the type of care they need in an ED...more of a "Band-Aid".
- They will leave the ED with a bill they cannot pay and prescriptions they cannot afford.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Reames", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeff Reames, MD FACEP, Vice President of Emergency Services



Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Chief Operating Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**Re: Oklahoma Health Care Authority SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver
Amendment Request (Project Number: 11-W-00048/6)**

Dear Ms. Pasternik-Ikard,

Oklahoma Policy Institute thanks you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed 1115(a) Demonstration SoonerCare Choice Community Engagement Requirement Waiver Amendment released July 3. Oklahoma Policy Institute (OK Policy) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit public policy think tank that promotes adequate, fair, and fiscally responsible funding of public services and expanded opportunity for all Oklahomans by providing timely and credible information, analysis, and ideas.

If enacted, the proposed 1115(a) waiver amendment will threaten access to needed health care for low-income Oklahoma parents and their children. We urge the Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) to withdraw the waiver.

Oklahoma's proposal almost certainly underestimates the number of people who would be affected

In the draft proposal, OHCA estimates that some 6,100 Oklahomans would be "affected" by the community engagement requirements.¹ However, this likely underestimates the true impact: the 6,100 figure appears to include only the parent/caretakers reporting zero income and excluding those who do not meet any of the most obvious exemptions, such as having a child under age 6.² There is a significant gulf between zero income and 20 hours per week of income, which is the minimum amount of "engagement" in the proposal. Even enrollees working more than 20 hours per week will be required to document that work. Given evidence that most coverage losses will be among those who are exempt or working more than the required number of hours, we should expect that significantly more than 6,100 people would be "affected" by the proposal.³

¹ "SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request Project Number 11-W-00048/6," Oklahoma Health Care Authority, July 3, 2018, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/0kj2qqgc201pnrg/Work%20and%20Community%20Engagement%20Waiver%20Amendment%20Request%20Draft%207.3.18%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0>

² The 6,100 figure also excludes Native American enrollees, an exemption that CMS is unlikely to approve. Dan Diamond, "Trump readies new round of controversial Medicaid changes," Politico, August 16, 2018, <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/08/16/medicaid-changes-trump-work-drug-use-741890>.

³ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and MaryBeth Musumeci, "Implications of a Medicaid Work Requirement: National Estimates of Potential Coverage Losses," Kaiser Family Foundation, June 27, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-a-medicaid-work-requirement-national-estimates-of-potential-coverage-losses/> see also Aviva Aron-Dine, "Eligibility Restrictions in Recent Medicaid Waivers Would Cause Many Thousands of People to Become Uninsured," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/eligibility-restrictions-in-recent-medicaid-waivers-would-cause-many-thousands-of->

The experience of the only state to implement a similar proposal so far bears this out. Arkansas began implementing its Medicaid work requirement in staggered groups in June, allowing members three months of noncompliance before cutting off coverage. By the end of July, just 884 of 13,566 Arkansas Medicaid members had reported sufficient hours to keep in compliance. By contrast, more than 12,000 hadn't yet reported work. Just three good cause exemptions were granted for June hours, even though more than 7,000 members hadn't reported work hours that month. This suggests that many members who were working or should have qualified for an exemption were not aware of or didn't understand the new requirement – and could be locked out of their health coverage as a result.⁴

While OHCA may be unable to generate a more precise calculation, it's impossible to evaluate the proposed draft without it. If nothing else, OHCA's inability to calculate such a basic piece of information pertinent to this proposal should highlight how far the proposal is outside OHCA's vision of access to quality health care services regardless of ability to pay.⁵

Oklahoma's proposal is a solution in search of a problem

In March of 2018, Governor Fallin signed Executive Order 2018-05 instructing OHCA to craft a work requirement.⁶ Later that spring, Governor Fallin signed HB 2932, which similarly directed the Health Care Authority to seek a federal waiver.⁷

Unfortunately, both the executive order and the legislation fail to recognize who Oklahoma Medicaid enrollees are and what barriers they face. Oklahoma's Medicaid program, SoonerCare, is the state's foundational health care safety net for low-income families, allowing more than one million Oklahomans to see a doctor, fill a prescription, and otherwise access needed health care every year.⁸ The vast majority of SoonerCare members are children, elderly adults, and individuals with SSI disability determinations. In fact, few working-age adults qualify for SoonerCare, and nearly all who do have children. In June of 2018, less than 10 percent of SoonerCare members qualified for coverage because they are the low-income parent or caretaker of a dependent.⁹

The most common family formation for parents in this category is a single mother of two children who is on SoonerCare coverage for less than one year.¹⁰ This suggests that many people only need SoonerCare for short periods, when they're between jobs or have otherwise fallen on hard times. These parents are extremely low income, with incomes below 46 percent of the federal poverty level – less than \$800 per month for a single mother with two children.¹¹ Three-fifths of parents qualifying for SoonerCare live at

⁴ Jennifer Wagner, "Eligible Arkansas Medicaid Beneficiaries Still Struggling to Meet Rigid Work Requirements," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, August 21, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/eligible-arkansas-medicaid-beneficiaries-still-struggling-to-meet-rigid-work-requirements>

⁵ "About Us," Oklahoma Health Care Authority, <http://www.okhca.org/about.aspx?id=32>

⁶ "Executive Order 2018-05," March 5, 2018, <https://www.sos.ok.gov/documents/Executive/1807.pdf>

⁷ "HB 2932," May 3, 2018, <http://www.oklegislature.gov/BillInfo.aspx?Bill=hb2932&Session=1800>

⁹ "SoonerCare Fast Facts June 2018," Oklahoma Health Care Authority, https://www.dropbox.com/s/ojs2apmw32bdkap/TotalEnrollment06_18%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0

¹⁰ Data via OHCA: https://www.dropbox.com/s/yprbp0i2pdvwbix/Parent%20Caretaker%20Misc_Avg%20Age_Household%20size%20%282%29.pdf?dl=0

¹¹ There is some discrepancy in Oklahoma's reported eligibility cutoff for parents/caretakers. Researchers with the Georgetown Center for Children and Families found in June that Oklahoma's cutoff is in fact 45 percent of the federal

or below 20 percent of the federal poverty level - \$346 per month for the same single mother with two children.¹²

While few working-age adults qualify for SoonerCare, most who do are already connected to the labor force. In 2016, 74 percent of non-SSI adults on Medicaid lived in a household with someone who was working, and 60 percent were working themselves.¹³ In the fall of 2017, OHCA data showed that more than 8 in 10 parents/caretakers on SoonerCare lived in households where at least one person is currently working or had been working in the prior six months.¹⁴ This shows that while some parents may not be working while on SoonerCare, they have been working before enrolling. Oklahoma lawmakers frequently cited the need to encourage self-sufficiency and independence in their support for the proposed 1115(a) amendment, yet the data clearly indicate that the families the OHCA serves are, to the best of their abilities, already connected to the labor force.

Among the unemployed parents and caretakers on Medicaid, most report that they are not working for reasons that broadly align with the exemptions laid out in the waiver proposal. Four in 10 nonworking parents on SoonerCare reported they were not working due to caretaking responsibilities in 2016.¹⁵ Slightly less than 1 in 3 reported that an illness or disability kept them from finding or keeping a job.¹⁶ Other adults who are between jobs are going to school, retired¹⁷, or report being unable to find work.¹⁸ Taking health coverage away from these individuals won't help them join the workforce – and is likely to significantly harm their access to needed care.

Oklahoma's waiver proposal threatens members who are working

No one disputes that work is important for Oklahoma's prosperity. However, this proposal and its effects will create barriers to care for Oklahomans who work too much or too little, and for Oklahomans in low-wage jobs.

The proposal does not actually measure whether SoonerCare members are engaged in meaningful labor but instead will tie their coverage to their ability to report their work or volunteer labor accurately, in

poverty level – not 46 percent as is commonly reported. In any case, families must be in extremely poor in order for parents to qualify for SoonerCare coverage

¹² Joan Alker, Phyllis Jordan, Olivia Pham, "New Waiver Proposal for Oklahoma Medicaid Beneficiaries Would Harm Low-Income Families With Children," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, August 6, 2018, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/07/oklahomas-proposed-work-rule-would-harm-mothers-and-children/>

¹³ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work," Kaiser Family Foundation, January 5, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>

¹⁴ Data courtesy of OHCA.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/h1fnzgw8qv6eygx/Copy%20of%20Employed%20by%20Qualifying%20Grp%20Sept%202017%20%281%29.xlsx?dl=0>

¹⁵ It's well-worth remembering that caring for children and other family members is in and of itself valuable, meaningful and vital work.

¹⁶ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work: Appendix," Kaiser Family Foundation, January 5, 2018 <https://www.kff.org/report-section/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work-appendix/>

¹⁷ While this data excluded adults older than 65, it's important to consider that the highly physical nature of many low-wage jobs results in workers unable to work before typical retirement age

¹⁸ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work," Kaiser Family Foundation, January 5, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>

the correct location, in a timely fashion, and verifiably.¹⁹ As described above, the majority of Oklahomans who would be affected by the state's proposed 1115(a) amendment are either working or exempt. Building a mechanism to cut coverage for any perceived lack of compliance with work requirements will inevitably create opportunities for new reporting and administrative errors, jeopardizing Oklahoma families' abilities to see doctors or fill their prescriptions. Estimates of coverage losses under a work requirement find that:

...under all scenarios, most disenrollment would be among individuals who would remain eligible but lose coverage due to new administrative burdens or red tape versus those who would lose eligibility due to not meeting new work requirements.²⁰

Indeed, between 62 and 91 percent of those likely to lose coverage under a work requirement will be individuals who are "eligible but lose coverage due to not reporting work activity or exemption," according to the Kaiser Family Foundation.²¹ Communication with low-income, rural, and tribal households can be difficult due to lack of consistent access to broadband internet and cell phones.²² Most coverage losses under this proposal will occur among individuals who are compliant or exempt but unable to prove it.

The nature of low-wage work also puts Oklahoma families at risk in this proposal. Low-wage labor is characterized by job volatility, high unemployment, and low job stability.²³ Workers have little control over when and how much they work. In Oklahoma, this would put workers at risk of either working too few or too many hours through no fault of their own, and losing coverage as a result.²⁴ Industries such as construction, hospitality, and retail experience significant seasonal variation, leaving individuals with skills in those industries less likely to be employed during the off-season. If they are unable to get enough hours to stay in compliance, low-wage workers will lose their health care.

Without Medicaid expansion, Oklahoma's proposal will put low-wage parents in an impossible situation

If approved, this proposal, combined with Oklahoma's failure to accept Medicaid expansion means that parents could lose their coverage for working too much, as well as too little – and when this happens, they are unlikely to have other options. Oklahoma's income eligibility threshold for parents/caretakers is just 46 percent of the federal poverty level, less than \$800 per month for a single mother with two

¹⁹ Unless the state chooses to rely on self-attestation

²⁰ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and MaryBeth Musumeci, "Implications of a Medicaid Work Requirement: National Estimates of Potential Coverage Losses," Kaiser Family Foundation, June 27, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-a-medicaid-work-requirement-national-estimates-of-potential-coverage-losses/>

²¹ Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and MaryBeth Musumeci, "Implications of a Medicaid Work Requirement: National Estimates of Potential Coverage Losses," Kaiser Family Foundation, June 27, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-a-medicaid-work-requirement-national-estimates-of-potential-coverage-losses/>

²² Aaron Krusniak, "With new work requirements, health care coverage for Oklahomans without internet access is at risk," Oklahoma Policy Institute, May 8, 2018, <https://okpolicy.org/with-new-work-requirements-health-care-coverage-for-oklahomans-without-internet-access-is-at-risk/>

²³ LaDonna Pavetti, "Evidence Counters CEA Claims on Work Requirements," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, July 30, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/blog/evidence-counters-cea-claims-on-work-requirements>

²⁴ "Harm to Low-Wage Workers From Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/harm-to-low-wage-workers-from-taking-away-medicaid-for-not-meeting-work-requirements>

children.²⁵ Oklahoma's proposal would require 80 hours of work per month. If that single mother of two worked 90 hours per month, just 10 more than the minimum required, at \$9 per hour, she would no longer qualify for SoonerCare.

As a result, this mother would likely become uninsured, unable to see a doctor or fill a prescription. This is the same penalty she would face if she didn't work enough hours, and will result in more Oklahoma adults in the "coverage gap," earning too much to qualify for Medicaid but not enough to access subsidies on the federal marketplace. She is unlikely to have employer-sponsored coverage available: just 11 percent of Oklahoma adults living in poverty get their insurance through their employer.²⁶ Far from helping Oklahomans on Medicaid reach self-sufficiency, this proposal will punish them for trying to attain it.

This isn't a problem OHCA can address without expanding Medicaid. The waiver proposal gestures vaguely toward increasing enrollment in Insure Oklahoma, but that won't be a realistic option for many Oklahomans who work themselves out of SoonerCare eligibility. Insure Oklahoma's Individual Plan currently requires that members work for employers with fewer than 250 employees (or 500 for nonprofits), which doesn't include the big-box stores or chain restaurants where many SoonerCare members work.²⁷ Moreover, Insure Oklahoma requires that members pay premiums. For very low-income Oklahomans, who are especially likely to be unbanked or underbanked, paying even small amounts are a practical impossibility.²⁸ While proposals in some non-expansion states address this risk by building in transitional Medicaid assistance for adults who work themselves out of eligibility, these solutions fail to address the structural issue of health care access.²⁹ Instead, they are a temporary fix, setting an arbitrary time limit for parents to pull their families out of poverty before they lose coverage.

Oklahoma's waiver proposal won't only affect parents

SoonerCare work requirements threaten the health coverage and well-being of Oklahoma's children. When parents lose access to health coverage, their children are less likely to be insured.³⁰ Oklahoma already has one of the highest child uninsured rates in the US.³¹ Loss of health coverage, whether of an adult or child, leaves families exposed to medical bankruptcy due to just one car accident or case of the

²⁵ "Table 3: Income Guidelines – Adult caretaker/relative with child," *A Million Reasons: 2017 Annual Report*, Oklahoma Health Care Authority, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/e4w1aou0eaa073h/2017%20Annual%20Report%20WEB.pdf?dl=0>

²⁶ "Coverage crater, What's That?" Oklahoma Policy Institute, <https://okpolicy.org/coverage-crater/>; Joan Alker, Phyllis Jordan, Olivia Pham, "New Waiver Proposal for Oklahoma Medicaid Beneficiaries Would Harm Low-Income Families With Children," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, August 6, 2018, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/07/oklahomas-proposed-work-rule-would-harm-mothers-and-children/>

²⁷ "How do I qualify?" Insure Oklahoma, <http://www.insureoklahoma.org/IOindividuals.aspx?id=3900>

²⁸ "State Outcome & Policy Report: Oklahoma," Prosperity Now Scorecard, <https://scorecard.prosperitynow.org/reports#report-state-profile/ok>

²⁹ Colby Itkowitz, "The Health 202: Mississippi quietly amends its Medicaid work requirement waiver," The Washington Post, August 9, 2018, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/powerpost/paloma/the-health-202/2018/08/09/the-health-202-mississippi-quietly-amends-its-medicaid-work-requirement-waiver/5b6b0fdb1b326b0207955fca/>; Suzanne Wickle, "The Perils of Tying Medicaid to Work in Non-Expansion States," CLASP, June 15, 2018, <https://www.clasp.org/blog/perils-tying-medicaid-work-non-expansion-states>

³⁰ Joan Alker, Phyllis Jordan, Olivia Pham, "New Waiver Proposal for Oklahoma Medicaid Beneficiaries Would Harm Low-Income Families With Children," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, August 6, 2018, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/07/oklahomas-proposed-work-rule-would-harm-mothers-and-children/>

³¹ Ibid.

flu. Without insurance coverage, chronic conditions such as asthma, depression, and diabetes become far more difficult to manage, in turn making it harder for low-income parents to find and keep a job.³²

Uncontrolled health conditions also make it harder to parent. Oklahoma already faces higher than average rates of adverse childhood experiences (of which having a parent with an untreated mental illness or addiction is one) and child neglect (more likely when a parent is dealing with untreated illness).³³ In this way, this proposal puts the wellbeing of not only parents but also their children at risk.

Oklahoma's proposal leaves vulnerable Oklahomans at risk

While SoonerCare provides vital health care for hundreds of thousands of Oklahomans, it is especially key for vulnerable groups who struggle to maintain access to needed medical care. This includes people with disabilities; people with mental illness and substance use disorders; and people in rural communities.

While the proposal exempts people with SSI and those “unfit for employment,” these exemptions are too restrictive to ensure people with disabilities are not harmed. Nearly three-fifths of non-elderly adult Medicaid enrollees with disabilities do not receive SSI or SSDI.³⁴ There are several reasons why tying their SoonerCare coverage to “community engagement” puts their care at risk. Many people with disabilities who should qualify for an exemption may struggle to do so, particularly for individuals struggling with serious illnesses or mental or physical impairments.³⁵ Their difficulties may become substantially greater if they are uninsured at the time they are trying to obtain necessary documents. Losing access to needed treatment will worsen enrollees’ ability to locate employment and care for children. As parents with disabilities face well-documented discrimination, actions hindering their ability to parent may be more likely to lead to intervention from child welfare and family separation.³⁶ Finally, many disabling conditions are not disabling at all times. For instance, individuals with depression or endometriosis may be entirely able to work at times but unable to do so at others. Some disabilities are dependent on environment or task. For example, someone with a mobility impairment may be able to navigate on flat surfaces and work while sitting, but be unable to work while standing or enter buildings with stairs, and someone with severe dyslexia may be perfectly able to complete complex tasks as long as they don’t entail reading or writing. The “Dear State Medicaid Director” letter from CMS last January makes clear that states pursuing proposals such as this must be able to accommodate these shifting disabilities, including not just exemptions but also modifications. However, the letter also states that

³² “Harm to People With Disabilities and Serious Illnesses From Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/harm-to-people-with-disabilities-and-serious-illnesses-from-taking-away-medicaid-for>

³³ Mary Mélon, “Adverse childhood experiences have negative impact on students,” *The Oklahoman*, March 11, 2018, <https://newsok.com/article/5586329/adverse-childhood-experiences-have-negative-impact-on-students>

³⁴ MaryBeth Musumeci, Julia Foutz, and Rachel Garfield, “How Might Medicaid Adults with Disabilities Be Affected By Work Requirements in Section 1115 Waiver Programs?” Kaiser Family Foundation, January 26, 2018, <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/how-might-medicaid-adults-with-disabilities-be-affected-by-work-requirements-in-section-1115-waiver-programs/>

³⁵ “Harm to People With Disabilities and Serious Illnesses From Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements,” Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/harm-to-people-with-disabilities-and-serious-illnesses-from-taking-away-medicaid-for>

³⁶ “Rocking the Cradle: Ensuring the Rights of Parents with Disabilities and Their Children,” National Council on Disability, September 27, 2012, <https://www.ncd.gov/publications/2012/Sep272012>

federal match is not available for employment-related services, leaving OHCA and partner agencies to negotiate this terrain without federal funding.³⁷

The proposal also contains exemptions pertaining to substance use disorder and mental illness. However, neither exemption is adequate and both are divorced from the reality of these conditions. Exempting only individuals *currently* in substance use disorder treatment leaves a wide range of individuals in need of treatment in danger of losing care.³⁸ Nationwide in 2016, about 15 percent of all US adults needed substance use disorder treatment, but only 2.5 percent got care.³⁹ It's also not clear what forms of substance use disorder or addiction treatment would qualify for the exemption. Including only a narrow range of treatment options, such as inpatient care delivered in a clinic, will disadvantage individuals receiving care in other settings. Furthermore, people often still need treatment after exiting inpatient in the form of medically assisted treatment, peer recovery, physical health care, and more. If OHCA limits its range of treatment options that qualify for exemptions only to a small range, members exiting inpatient treatment could lose access to needed services if they don't immediately gain a job.⁴⁰

The rural nature of Oklahoma also presents challenges. Poverty rates are higher in rural Oklahoma than in urban centers, and SoonerCare participation among parents/caretakers is higher in rural areas as well.⁴¹ In those areas, where job opportunities are fewer, low-income parents are more likely to face a skills mismatch that places the few available jobs out of their reach, and are less likely to have access to the training or education they need to ameliorate that mismatch. In addition, a greater share of parents may simply not live where jobs are available.

This proposal would have troubling repercussions for health care for Native Americans in Oklahoma

The proposal also poses serious risk to Oklahoma's Native American families who rely on Medicaid. Sixteen percent of the state's SoonerCare enrollees identify as American Indian, two-thirds of whom are verified. Nearly 1 in 4 American Indians on SoonerCare are working-age adults.⁴² Native American unemployment generally outpaces the state's overall unemployment rate, signaling that Native

³⁷ Brian Neale, "RE: Opportunities to Promote Work and Community Engagement Among Medicaid Beneficiaries," Department of Health and Human Services Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, January 11, 2018, <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/smd18002.pdf>

³⁸ "Harm to People With Substance Use Disorders From Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/harm-to-people-with-substance-use-disorders-from-taking-away-medicaid-for-not>

³⁹ "Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health," Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, September 2017, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2016/NSDUH-FFR1-2016.pdf>

⁴⁰ "Harm to People With Substance Use Disorders From Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/harm-to-people-with-substance-use-disorders-from-taking-away-medicaid-for-not>

⁴¹ Courtney Cullison, "2016 Oklahoma Poverty Profile," Oklahoma Policy Institute, December 13, 2017, <https://okpolicy.org/2016-oklahoma-poverty-profile/>; Joan Alker, Phyllis Jordan, Olivia Pham, "New Waiver Proposal for Oklahoma Medicaid Beneficiaries Would Harm Low-Income Families With Children," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, August 6, 2018, <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/07/oklahomas-proposed-work-rule-would-harm-mothers-and-children/>

⁴² "American Indian Fast Facts," Oklahoma Health Care Authority, June 2018, [https://www.dropbox.com/s/aajq3w6glb4jpb7/Am Indian FF 06 2018.pdf?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/aajq3w6glb4jpb7/Am%20Indian%20FF%2006%202018.pdf?dl=0)

American parents may find it particularly difficult to meet a work requirement.⁴³ Native Americans also experience significant health disparities that will be worsened without health care access. Compared to non-Hispanic whites, American Indian/Alaska Native adults are more than twice as likely to be overweight, obese, diagnosed with diabetes, or to experience feelings of sadness, hopelessness, or worthlessness. These are medical issues that need medical treatment, and Oklahoma's proposal jeopardizes Native Americans' ability to access this treatment.⁴⁴

Oklahoma's Native American tribes lose to stand not only health care access but also federal funding as a result of this proposal. Medicaid's 100 percent reimbursement rate for care received by Native Americans at IHS and tribal facilities plays a critical role in offsetting IHS underfunding. This proposal puts those reimbursements at risk.⁴⁵ But even more significantly, a work requirement flies in the face of the federal trust relationship and violates years of precedent, signaling a "a remarkable departure from US history, US policy, and US law".⁴⁶ While the OHCA proposal attempts to exempt Native Americans, reporting on Arizona's waiver proposal suggests that the exemption is unlikely to be granted.⁴⁷

Oklahoma's proposal will likely be expensive – but we have no way of knowing how much it will cost

Oklahoma's waiver proposal gives no detail on what it will cost to implement. OHCA's enrollment system was not designed to handle the kind of determinations that the proposal will require and may require a costly overhaul. Modeling the program after SNAP, as the legislature directed, may also require OHCA to hire caseworkers to handle determinations that cannot be automated. Cost estimates from other states vary significantly (\$374 million over two years in Kentucky, including a 40 percent increase in administrative costs; \$380 million over five years in Ohio; \$283 million over two years in Minnesota⁴⁸) but suggest that implementation will not be cheap. Given the likelihood that this proposal will mean more harm than good for Oklahoma families, that money is far better used improving rather than limiting access to health care.

Oklahoma's proposal should be withdrawn

Any good-faith effort to increase Oklahomans' job participation must meaningfully engage the underlying barriers to employment – not endanger basic health care access for families. Unemployed and underemployed Oklahomans need quality, affordable child care, which is increasingly hard to find,

⁴³ "Harm to American Indians and Alaska Natives From Taking Away Medicaid for Not Meeting Work Requirements," Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, May 9, 2018, <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/harm-to-american-indians-and-alaska-natives-from-taking-away-medicaid-for-not>

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Dan Diamond, "Senators rebuke Trump administration over challenge to Native Americans' health care," Politico, April 27, 2018, <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/04/27/trump-native-americans-health-care-senators-557857>; Graham Lee Brewer, "Trump takes a hard line on tribal health care," High Country News, April 27, 2018, <https://www.hcn.org/articles/indian-country-news-trump-takes-a-hard-line-on-tribal-health-care>

⁴⁷ Dan Diamond, "Trump readies new round of controversial Medicaid changes," Politico, August 16, 2018, <https://www.politico.com/story/2018/08/16/medicaid-changes-trump-work-drug-use-741890>

⁴⁸ Eric Kim, "Fitch: Medicaid Waiver Actions Limit US States' Cost Controls," Fitch Ratings, July 17, 2018, <https://www.fitchratings.com/site/pr/10038515>; Lydia Coutré, "Ohio's proposed Medicaid eligibility requirements could cost counties millions," Crain's Cleveland Business, March 13, 2018, <http://www.craincleveland.com/article/20180313/news/154751/ohios-proposed-medicaid-eligibility-requirements-could-cost-counties>; <http://www.senate.mn/committees/2017-2018/3095> Committee on Health and Human Services Finance and Policy/SF%203611-1A%20Completed%20FN.pdf

as child care centers close and the child care subsidy becomes less accessible.⁴⁹ They need access to transportation, when public transportation is barely adequate in the major metropolitan areas and virtually nonexistent outside them.⁵⁰ They need increased access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment, when Oklahoma's Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services reports that the state has among the highest rates of mental illness and substance abuse and that only 1 in 3 individuals in need of treatment receives it.⁵¹

SoonerCare is a health care program, designed to provide affordable health coverage to the low-income Oklahoma families who need it the most. The proposed 1115(a) waiver amendment conflicts with that mission and will result in greater hardship and poorer health among Oklahoma parents and their children. As such, this proposal should be withdrawn.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I or my staff can answer any questions.

Best,



David Blatt
Executive Director
Oklahoma Policy Institute
(918) 794 3944
dblatt@okpolicy.org

cc: Governor Mary Fallin
President Pro Tem-Designate Greg Treat
Speaker Charles McCall

⁴⁹ Paul Monies, "Child Care Becoming Scarcer as Costs, Closures Take Toll," Oklahoma Watch, July 24, 2018, <http://oklahomawatch.org/2018/07/24/child-care-becoming-scarcer-as-costs-closures-take-toll/>; Carly Putnam, "Child care is getting less accessible for Oklahoma's working parents," Oklahoma Policy Institute, January 19, 2016, <https://okpolicy.org/child-care-getting-less-accessible-oklahomas-working-parents/>

⁵⁰ Reuben Fischer-Baum, "How Your City's Public Transit Stacks Up," FiveThirtyEight, July 31, 2014, <https://fivethirtyeight.com/features/how-your-citys-public-transit-stacks-up/>; "Waiting for a Ride: Transit Access and America's Aging Population," AARP, <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/learn/transportation-mobility/info-12-2012/waiting-for-a-ride-transit-access-and-americas-aging-population.html>

⁵¹ Terri White, "ODMHSAS Budget Presentation," January 16, 2018, <https://www.dropbox.com/s/6f4ki1fmtv57j54/House-Senate%20Budget%20Presentation%201-16-18.Final.Updated%20%281%29.pdf?dl=0>



August 31, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Re: 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

NAMI Oklahoma, the state chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, appreciates the opportunity to comment on 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application. NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.

Access to coverage and care is essential for people with mental illness to successfully manage their condition and get on a path of recovery. Medicaid is the lifeline for much of that care, as the nation's largest payer of behavioral health services,ⁱ which provides health coverage to 27 percent of adults with a serious mental illnessⁱⁱ. NAMI remains concerned that the demonstration proposal will jeopardize access to care and will have harmful implications for individuals living with mental health conditions in Oklahoma. Therefore, NAMI Oklahoma urges the Oklahoma Health Care Authority to withdraw this proposal.

Lose-Lose Situation

The work requirement included in the state's demonstration amendment presents a lose-lose situation for beneficiaries. In Oklahoma, eligibility for SoonerCare, is limited to parents and caretakers and individuals with disabilities with incomes at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of 3). If these beneficiaries do not work enough to meet the proposed work requirements, they will lose their Medicaid coverage. But if they work enough to comply with the work requirements, they will also lose their Medicaid coverage because they will make enough money to raise their incomes above the state's very low Medicaid eligibility limits. Therefore, regardless of what beneficiaries do, they will lose their access to Medicaid coverage. This undercuts the basic argument that these changes will encourage beneficiaries to obtain and maintain employment. It's also unlikely that many of these individuals would be able to find jobs that offered employer-sponsored insurance, given that many low-wage jobs do not offer health insurance.

Work and Community Engagement Requirements – Unnecessary Risks for People with Mental Illness

NAMI Oklahoma appreciates the state's goal to "promote advancement of member education, training, employment and community activity engagement." NAMI Oklahoma recognizes that people with mental illness are disproportionately unemployed. Only 1 in 5 adults with mental health conditions who receive community mental health services are competitively employed—and the numbers drop to only 6.7% for

3812 N. Santa Fe, Suite 305, Oklahoma City, OK 73118
1-800-583-1264 • 405-601-8283 • Fax 405-602-8539
namiok@coxinet.net • <http://namioklahoma.org>

adults with a diagnosis of schizophreniaⁱⁱⁱ. Employment offers many benefits to people with mental illness, and most people who live with mental health conditions want to work. However, work requirements present unnecessary risks for people with mental illness.

NAMI recognizes that Oklahoma's proposal includes an exemption for "individuals who are medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment." While that exemption may capture some individuals with mental health conditions, there are several reasons why NAMI is concerned that work requirements would still cause people with mental illness to lose access to health coverage and health care.

People with a mental health condition may find it particularly burdensome to prove their eligibility for an exemption because of the nature of their condition^{iv}. Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from patients' or caregivers' focus on maintaining their or their family's health. Serious mental illnesses are, by their very nature, chronic and recurring conditions that fluctuate in severity over time. This means that an individual could be in a state of recovery at the time they are assessed and face few obstacles to working at that time. However, the person's condition could change rapidly – without the knowledge of the Medicaid system. Work requirements would mean that an individual who is experiencing a crisis or decline in their condition could lose both their employment and health care coverage at the very time they need access to mental health care the most. The fundamental nature of the reporting process creates opportunities for administrative error that could jeopardize coverage. No exemption criteria can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

Unnecessary Administrative Costs

NAMI Oklahoma is also concerned about the high cost of implementing this demonstration proposal. Kentucky and other states including Tennessee and Virginia have estimated that setting up the administrative systems to track and verify exemptions and work activities will cost tens of millions of dollars^v. These costs would divert resources from Medicaid's core goal – providing health coverage to those without access to care. Additionally, people who are dropped from Medicaid coverage for failing to fulfill work requirements will likely not seek care until their conditions are acute and costly to treat, driving up state costs. Rather than spending scarce public resources on the administration of new requirements, NAMI urges the state to instead implement evidence-based supported employment programs. Such programs help participants find and maintain employment through an array of services such as skills assessment, assistance with job search and job applications, job placement and on-the-job coaching and support for effectively managing work while living with a mental illness. They have proven effective in helping vulnerable populations, such as people with mental illness, recover and return to work. This meets the intent of Oklahoma's waiver proposal without the adverse consequences presented by a mandatory work requirement.

Lack of Key Information

NAMI Oklahoma is troubled, as the waiver application lacks key information. There is little detail on how the new requirements will be implemented and enforced, but more troubling, the application claims the proposal will have no impact on enrollment as part of the budget neutrality assumption. The proposal does not predict the impact of the waiver on enrollment (with or without waiver baseline) or cost savings over 5 years. The federal rules at 431.408 pertaining to state public comment process require at (a)(1)(i)(C) that a state include an estimate of the expected increase or decrease in annual enrollment and expenditures if applicable. The intent of this section of the regulations is to allow the public to

3812 N. Santa Fe, Suite 305, Oklahoma City, OK 73118

1-800-583-1264 • 405-601-8283 • Fax 405-602-8539

namiok@coxinet.net • <http://namioklahoma.org>



comment on a Section 1115 proposal with adequate information to assess its impact. In order to meet these transparency requirements, Oklahoma must include these projections and their impact on budget neutrality. If Oklahoma intends to move ahead with this proposal, the state should at a minimum provide the required information to the public and reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.

Conclusion

Ultimately, the requirements outlined by Oklahoma do not further the goals of the Medicaid program or help beneficiaries improve their circumstances without needlessly compromising their access to care. NAMI Oklahoma urges the state to withdraw this demonstration proposal as it will harm patients with mental health conditions by causing them to lose access to health coverage and health care. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Brandon Pettit
Executive Director

ⁱ Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, "Behavioral Health in the Medicaid Program—People, Use, and Expenditures," June 2015, <https://www.macpac.gov/publication/behavioral-health-in-the-medicaid-program%E2%80%95people-use-and-expenditures/>

ⁱⁱ Rebecca Ahrnsbrak, Jonaki Bose, Sarra Hedden, Rachel N. Lipari, and Eunice Park-Lee, "Key Substance Use and Mental Health Indicators in the United States: Results from the 2016 National Survey on Drug Use and Health," Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, September 2017, <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUH-FFR1-2016/NSDUH-FFR1-2016.pdf>

ⁱⁱⁱ National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors Research Institute, "Latest Trends in State Mental Health Agencies," <https://www.nasmhpd.org/sites/default/files/latest-trends-in-state-mental-health-agencies.pdf>

^{iv} Richard Frank, "Medicaid work requirements will reduce care for mentally ill," *The Hill*, February 3, 2018, <http://thehill.com/opinion/healthcare/372181-medicaid-work-requirements-will-reduce-care-for-mentally-ill>

^v Misty Williams, "Medicaid Changes Require Tens of Millions in Upfront Costs," Roll Call, February 26, 2018, <https://www.rollcall.com/news/politics/medicaid-kentucky>.



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

August 28, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Dear Ms. Pasternik-Ikard,

I write today on behalf of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society to comment on the 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application. Pertaining to your consideration of proposed changes to SoonerCare, I write today to share concerns, specifically urging caution relating to the work requirements as passed by the Oklahoma Legislature and similarly requested by Governor Fallin via executive order.

Most people on Medicaid who can work do so. A recent study, published in JAMA Internal Medicine, looked at the employment status and characteristics of Michigan's Medicaid enrollees. The study found only about a quarter were unemployed (27.6 percent). Of this 27.6 percent of enrollees, two thirds reported having a chronic physical condition and a quarter reported having a mental or physical condition that interfered with their ability to work.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an unpredictable disease of the central nervous system, with symptoms ranging from numbness and tingling to blindness and paralysis. It is typically diagnosed during prime working years.. Some people with MS at some point will need to transition to part-time, flexible employment to accommodate their disease and its symptoms. Others—whose MS has progressed greatly—are unable to work at all. Fewer than half of all individuals with MS are in the workforce ten years after their diagnosis. The Society's position is that people with MS should not be penalized if their health condition is preventing them from working, particularly in a manner that revokes health coverage and access to potentially costly needed treatments and services. The National Multiple Sclerosis Society believes SoonerCare work requirements will jeopardize patients' access to care and harm individuals with serious, acute and chronic diseases including MS.

SoonerCare, Oklahoma's Medicaid program, covers parents and caretakers and disabled individuals with incomes at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of 3). The proposed waiver amendment seeks to add new barriers to accessing coverage. Individuals between the ages of 19 and 50 would be required to either demonstrate that they work at least 80 hours per month or meet exemptions. These requirements put access to needed care, like seeing specialists including neurologists and urologists, vital testing like magnetic resonance imaging and access to medications in jeopardy. In 2018, the average price of MS disease modifying therapies is

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

\$80,000 – the out-of-pocket cost of which Oklahoma families on Medicaid cannot bear. A growing body of evidence indicates that early and ongoing treatment with an MS disease-modifying therapy (DMT) is the best way to modify the course of the disease, prevent accumulation of disability and protect the brain. Therefore, if people with MS do not have access to their DMT—it not only negatively impacts their health, but likely increases costs for the healthcare system at large and

Increasing administrative requirements will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, regardless of whether they are exempt or not. People with MS may experience significant MS symptoms or exacerbations that temporarily interfere with their ability to work, but they may not qualify for SSDI exemption or have trouble complying with “medical certification” exemption requirements of SNAP. Many communities do not have access to providers to seek and obtain such certification. Even if able to drive great lengths to obtain required certification, the wait for a neurology appointment in Oklahoma is substantial with patients often waiting months. This could result in a gap in coverage.

Reporting an exemption or the work requirement itself will be burdensome. Arkansas is currently implementing a similar policy requiring Medicaid enrollees to report their hours worked or their exemption. According to the state’s own report on the second month of implementation, 5,426 individuals did not meet the reporting requirement for two consecutive months and are at risk of losing coverage on September 1, at which point they would be locked out of coverage until January 2019.ⁱ An additional 6,531 individuals did meet the reporting requirement for one month and also remain at risk for losing their coverage.ⁱⁱ Similarly, after Washington state changed its renewal process from every twelve months to every six months and instituted new documentation requirements in 2003, approximately 35,000 fewer children were enrolled in the program by the end of 2004.ⁱⁱⁱ Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from patients’ or caregivers’ focus on maintaining their or their family’s health. Ironically, work requirements could keep someone from getting the coverage and services they need to be healthy enough to work and complying with work requirements.

When considering significant changes to health policy, details matter. Which is why it is particularly troubling that the waiver application lacks key information. There is little detail on how the new requirements will be implemented and enforced, but more troubling, the application claims the proposal will have no impact on enrollment as part of the budget neutrality assumption. The proposal does not predict the impact of the waiver on enrollment (with or without waiver baseline) or cost savings over 5 years. The federal rules at 431.408 pertaining to state public comment process require at (a)(1)(i)(C) that a state include an estimate of the expected increase or decrease in annual enrollment and expenditures if applicable. The intent of this section of the regulations is to allow the public to comment on a Section 1115 proposal with adequate information to assess its impact. To meet these transparency requirements, Oklahoma must include these projections and their impact on budget neutrality. If Oklahoma intends to move ahead with this proposal, the state should at a

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



**National
Multiple Sclerosis
Society**

minimum provide the required information to the public and reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.

Oklahoma is entering uncharted territory, as work requirements have not been implemented in any non-expansion state. That's why Seema Verma, the Administrator of CMS, has voiced caution in recent comments about crafting work requirements for these states, such as Oklahoma. The Department of Health and Human Services went even further in their legal filing for a Kentucky lawsuit pertaining to work requirements, clarifying that they view work requirements primarily as an option for expansion states, and writing, "Community-engagement initiatives would make little sense for vulnerable low-income individuals likely to need medical assistance." The National MS Society believes everyone should have access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage. Oklahoma's 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application does not advance that goal.

Access to needed health care services and early and consistent control of disease activity appears to play a key role in preventing accumulation of disability, prolonging the ability of people with MS to remain active and protecting quality of life. The Society therefore opposes work requirements that penalize people with MS who are unable to work due to their MS or fail to meet limited and burdensome administrative requirements. We ask you to remain committed to allowing those who live with chronic illnesses to continue to receive the care that they need to live their best lives possible. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

Kari Rinker, MPA
Senior Advocacy Manager
National MS Society

ⁱ Joan Alker and Maggie Clark, "After Two Months Under New Work Requirements, Thousands of Arkansans May Lose Medicaid Without Even Realizing the Rules Changed," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families. August 15, 2018. Accessed at: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/15/after-two-months-under-new-work-requirements-thousands-of-arkansans-may-lose-medicaid-without-even-realizing-the-rules-changed/>.

ⁱⁱ Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Arkansas Works Program, July 2018 Report. Accessed at: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/081418_AWRReport_July.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tricia Brooks, "Data Reporting to Assess Enrollment and Retention in Medicaid and SCHIP," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, January 2009.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT



August 31, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Transmitted via email to OHCCommunityEngagement@okhca.org

Re: 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115 Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

On behalf of the 30 million Americans with one of the estimated 7,000 known rare diseases, the National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD) appreciates the opportunity to submit comments on the 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115 Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application.

NORD is a unique federation of voluntary health organizations dedicated to helping people with rare "orphan" diseases and assisting the organizations that serve them. Since 1983, we have been committed to the identification, treatment, and cure of rare disorders through programs of education, advocacy, research, and patient services.

NORD recognizes Oklahoma's stated goal of "improving health outcomes for Oklahomans through the demonstration."¹ However, after reviewing the proposed alterations to its Medicaid program and consulting with our member organizations, we are concerned that the proposed work/community engagement requirement to the SoonerCare program will threaten access to care for many within Oklahoma's rare disease community.

Oklahoma's Proposal to Implement Work Requirements:

We oppose the implementation of work requirements within the SoonerCare program as it is counter to the fundamental goals of the Medicaid program and does not help low-income individuals improve their circumstances without needlessly compromising their access to care.

Further, if implemented, we believe the exemptions to these requirements will not be nuanced or precise enough to avoid harming the health and wellbeing of Oklahoma rare disease patients and their families. While the list of exemptions appears comprehensive, we can still easily envision many scenarios in

¹ SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request Pg. 4

which individuals with rare diseases or their caregivers will be unduly subjected to onerous and inappropriate work requirements.

For example, it remains unclear from the given information within the demonstration what would happen to caregivers of those with a rare disease. The demonstration notes that a beneficiary who is a “parent or caretaker responsible for the care of an incapacitated person” would be exempt.² The demonstration does not say, however, how that would be adjudicated. It is not clear in this context what it means to be incapacitated. Consequently, it is not difficult to imagine a scenario in which this exemptions process would leave out a deserving caregiver.

Similarly, the demonstration proposes to exempt individuals who, “are medically certified as physically or mentally unfit for employment” or have “a disability” as defined by federal statute.³ Yet, once again, the waiver does not articulate how such a determination would be made and who would be making it. It is not obvious from the demonstration what having something “medically certified” will involve.⁴ With a scarcity of physicians familiar with rare diseases and the prevalence of undiagnosed conditions, it is often difficult, even impossible, for rare disease patients to adequately convey the extent of their symptoms in a timely manner.

Finally, a major consequence of this proposal will be to increase the administrative burden on all patients. Individuals will need to attest that they meet certain exemptions or have worked eighty hours per month. Increasing administrative requirements will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, regardless of whether they are exempt or working.

These are just a handful of ways in which rare disease patients and their loved ones could slip through the cracks and lose access to their health care. In order to avoid the kind of delay or termination of care that could gravely impact the lives of Oklahoma’s rare disease patients and their families, we urge the Authority to reconsider this provision.

Thank you once again for the opportunity to provide comments on the Authority’s application for a 1115 demonstration. For further questions, please contact me at tboyd@rarediseases.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "T. Boyd", written in a cursive style.

Tim Boyd
Director of State Policy

² SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request Pg. 8

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.



August 30, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Submitted via email to: OHCCommunityEngagement@okhca.org

Re: 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

Hemophilia Federation of America (HFA) and the National Hemophilia Foundation (NHF) are national non-profit organizations that represent individuals with bleeding disorders across the United States. Our missions are to ensure that individuals affected by hemophilia and other inherited bleeding disorders have timely access to quality medical care, therapies, and services, regardless of financial circumstances or place of residence. The Oklahoma Hemophilia Foundation (OHF) works for affected families, health care workers, educators, policymakers, and the community at large regarding issues uniquely important to Oklahomans affected by a bleeding disorder. HFA, NHF, and OHF appreciate the opportunity to submit comments on Oklahoma's 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application.

Our organizations believe everyone, including Medicaid enrollees, should have access to quality and affordable health coverage. Unfortunately, Oklahoma's application does not meet this objective and will instead create new administrative barriers that jeopardize access to healthcare for patients with bleeding disorders.

SoonerCare, Oklahoma's Medicaid program, covers parents and caretakers and disabled individuals with incomes at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of 3). The proposed waiver amendment seeks to add new barriers to accessing coverage. Individuals between the ages of 19 and 50 would be required to either demonstrate that they work at least 80 hours per month or meet exemptions. One major consequence of this proposal will be to increase the administrative burden on all patients. Individuals will need to attest that they meet certain exemptions or have worked the required number of hours on a monthly basis.

Increasing administrative requirements will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, regardless of whether they are exempt or not. For example, Arkansas is currently implementing a similar policy requiring Medicaid enrollees to report their hours worked or their exemption. According to the state's own report on the second month of implementation, 5,426 individuals did not meet the reporting requirement for two consecutive months and are at risk of losing coverage on September 1, at which point they would be locked out of coverage until January 2019.ⁱ An additional 6,531 individuals did meet the reporting requirement for one month and also remain at risk for losing their coverage.ⁱⁱ Similarly, after Washington state changed its renewal process from every twelve months to every six months and instituted new documentation requirements in 2003, approximately 35,000 fewer children were enrolled in the program by the end of 2004.ⁱⁱⁱ Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from patients' or caregivers' focus on maintaining their or their family's health.

Failing to navigate these burdensome administrative requirements could have serious – even life or death – consequences for people with bleeding disorders or other serious, acute and chronic diseases. If the state finds that individuals have failed to comply with the new requirements for three months, they will be locked out of coverage until

they can meet the requirement. People with bleeding disorders rely on essential medications to manage their condition: to prevent bleeding, and to treat acute breakthrough bleeding episodes, which could lead to further cumulative damage. Thus, individuals with a bleeding disorder cannot afford a sudden gap in their care which cuts them off from timely access to their treatment.

HFA, NHF, and OHF are concerned that the current exemption criteria may not capture all individuals with, or at risk of, serious and chronic health conditions that prevent them from meeting these requirements. While we are pleased that patients will have the option to demonstrate that they qualify for an exemption through self-attestation, the reporting process still creates opportunities for administrative error that could jeopardize coverage. No exemption criteria can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

Ultimately, the requirements outlined in this waiver do not further the goals of the Medicaid program or help low-income individuals improve their circumstances without needlessly compromising their access to care. Most people on Medicaid who can work already do so.^{iv} A recent study, published in *JAMA Internal Medicine*, looked at the employment status and characteristics of Michigan's Medicaid enrollees.^v The study found only about a quarter were unemployed (27.6 percent). Of this 27.6 percent of enrollees, two thirds reported having a chronic physical condition and a quarter reported having a mental or physical condition that interfered with their ability to work.

Lack of Key Information

HFA, NHF, and OHF are concerned that the waiver application lacks key information. There is little detail on how the new requirements will be implemented and enforced, but more troubling, the application claims the proposal will have no impact on enrollment as part of the budget neutrality assumption. The proposal does not predict the impact of the waiver on enrollment (with or without waiver baseline) or cost savings over 5 years. The federal rules at 431.408 pertaining to state public comment process require at (a)(1)(i)(C) that a state include an estimate of the expected increase or decrease in annual enrollment and expenditures if applicable. The intent of this section of the regulations is to allow the public to comment on a Section 1115 proposal with adequate information to assess its impact. In order to meet these transparency requirements, Oklahoma must include these projections and their impact on budget neutrality. If Oklahoma intends to move ahead with this proposal, the state should at a minimum provide the required information to the public and reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.

HFA, NHF, and OHF believe everyone should have access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage. Oklahoma's 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application does not advance that goal. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



If you have any questions or would like any additional information, please contact Michelle Rice, NHF's Senior Vice President for External Affairs, and Miriam Goldstein, Associate Director for Policy at HFA.

Sincerely,

Miriam Goldstein
Associate Director, Policy
Hemophilia Federation of America

Michelle Rice
Sr. Vice President, External Affairs
National Hemophilia Foundation

Kathleen Montgomery
Executive Director
Oklahoma Hemophilia Foundation

ⁱ Joan Alker and Maggie Clark, "After Two Months Under New Work Requirements, Thousands of Arkansans May Lose Medicaid Without Even Realizing the Rules Changed," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families. August 15, 2018. Accessed at: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/15/after-two-months-under-new-work-requirements-thousands-of-arkansans-may-lose-medicare-without-even-realizing-the-rules-changed/>.

ⁱⁱ Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Arkansas Works Program, July 2018 Report. Accessed at: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/081418_AWReport_July.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tricia Brooks, "Data Reporting to Assess Enrollment and Retention in Medicaid and SCHIP," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, January 2009.

^{iv} Rachel Garfield, Robin Rudowitz, and Anthony Damico, "Understanding the Intersection of Medicaid and Work," Kaiser Family Foundation, February 2017, <http://kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicare-and-work/>.

^v Renuka Tipirneni, Susan D. Goold, John Z. Ayanian. Employment Status and Health Characteristics of Adults With Expanded Medicaid Coverage in Michigan. *JAMA Intern Med*. Published online December 11, 2017. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2017.7055



August 24, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Chief Executive Officer
Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA)
4345 North Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105

Dear Ms. Pasternik-Ikard,

The Oklahoma Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (OKAAP), a nonprofit organization representing over 450 pediatricians from across the state, dedicated to the health, safety and well-being of all Oklahoma infants, children, adolescents and young adults, thanks you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request (Project Number 11-W-00048/6).

We write today to express our concerns with this proposed waiver application, which would create significant barriers to affordable health care coverage for low-income parents. Oklahoma is seeking waiver authority to add work as a condition of Medicaid coverage for the traditionally eligible Medicaid parent/caretaker group, all of whom are in families with significantly low incomes. We are concerned that, under this proposal, Medicaid coverage may be punitively denied not only for those who do not meet the work requirement, but for those who actually do.

Low-income parents losing their Medicaid coverage will have an impact on the health of Oklahoma children. As pediatricians, we know that parents who are enrolled in coverage are more likely to have children enrolled in coverage, and parents with coverage are also more likely to maintain their children's coverage over time. Research shows the positive effects that Medicaid coverage of adults is having in other states in terms of coverage, access to care, utilization, affordability, health outcomes, and many economic measures.¹ New research also demonstrates that coverage of parents has spillover effects in terms of increased use of preventive services by children.² The loss of parent coverage because of this new proposal will directly affect children.

As you are aware, under the current Medicaid program, the parent/caregiver eligibility group must have a family income at or below 45% of the federal poverty level (FPL); for a family of 3 that would be \$779 per month. Under this waiver proposal, a single mother with 2 children over the age of 6 would be required to work at least 20 hours per week to maintain Medicaid coverage. The mother would remain financially eligible for Medicaid while working exactly 20 hours per week at minimum wage, but if she were to gain additional hours or make more than minimum wage, she would lose her Medicaid coverage. This program would thus disincentive individuals from earning more

¹ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/the-effects-of-medicaid-expansion-under-the-aca-updated-findings-from-a-literature-review-september-2017/>

² <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/early/2017/11/09/peds.2017-0953>

Oklahoma Chapter AAP
6840 S. Trenton Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74136

Website: www.OKAAP.org

❖ **Laura McGuinn, MD, FAAP**
❖ President
❖ **Dwight Sublett, MD, FAAP**
❖ Vice President
❖ **Paul Darden, MD, FAAP**
❖ Secretary/Treasurer

❖ Amy Prentice – Executive Director
❖ aprentice@upal.com
❖ Phone: 918-858-0298
❖ Fax: 918-747-5596
❖ Toll Free: 866-664-4301



OKLAHOMA CHAPTER AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

money as they would then lose their insurance coverage, with limited or no access to affordable alternative coverage.

Simply being employed does not guarantee an individual will be able to obtain health insurance. A 2014 study showed that only 28% of employees of private firms with low average wages obtain health insurance through their jobs, and 42% are not even eligible for employer-sponsored coverage.³ If she were to attempt to purchase coverage on the marketplace, she would not qualify for tax credits to help pay for private coverage, as she would still be earning less than 100% FPL.

This work requirement therefore will be sending low-income parents directly into a coverage gap. While the state does offer the Insure Oklahoma Individual Plan, it is limited to those who are employed by companies with fewer than 250 employees that do not have employer-sponsored coverage. This could limit the types of jobs beneficiaries would apply for, in order to meet the requirements of the Insure Oklahoma program.

Studies have shown that 8 in 10 Medicaid eligible adults live in working families and almost 60% work themselves.⁴ Additionally, an Ohio report evaluating the impact of Medicaid expansion in that state revealed that of new Medicaid enrollees who were employed, 52% stated that having Medicaid made it easier for them to continue working, while of those who were not employed, 74.8% said having coverage made it easier for them to look for employment.⁵ As shown in Ohio's evaluation, Medicaid plays a critical role in supporting the abilities of individuals to look for employment and once employed, continue working.

Reporting on compliance of, or exemption from, the new work requirements is another concern. In Kansas, which has started implementing its work requirement waiver, the only way for individuals to report their work hours is online. While the Oklahoma proposal does not indicate how beneficiaries will report the work hours as proposed, it should be noted that 30% of Medicaid adults report they never use a computer, 28% do not use the Internet, and 41% do not use e-mail.⁶ Additionally, Oklahoma is currently ranked 37th in the country for access to the Internet.⁷ Without assuring meaningful methods of reporting such compliance, parents and other adults from across the state may lose coverage because they simply do not have the means to report their hours to the state.

Oklahoma is also likely to see additional financial burdens because of the administrative costs of implementing these work requirements. New IT systems will need to be developed as well as a means for tracking beneficiary compliance with the program. Recent reports from Kentucky indicate administrative costs have jumped in that state by as much as 40%, or \$35 million, as a work requirement is implemented there.⁸

³ https://meps.ahrq.gov/mepsweb/survey_comp/Insurance.jsp

⁴ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/understanding-the-intersection-of-medicaid-and-work/>

⁵ <http://medicaid.ohio.gov/Portals/0/Resources/Reports/Annual/Group-VIII-Assessment.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-work-requirements-in-medicaid-what-does-the-data-say/>

⁷ <https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/infrastructure/internet-access>

⁸ <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucejapsen/2018/07/22/trumps-medicaid-work-rules-hit-states-with-costs-and-bureaucracy/#6879ebdd66f5>

Oklahoma Chapter AAP
6840 S. Trenton Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74136

Website: www.OKAAP.org

❖ **Laura McGuinn, MD, FAAP**
❖ President
❖ **Dwight Sublett, MD, FAAP**
❖ Vice President
❖ **Paul Darden, MD, FAAP**
❖ Secretary/Treasurer

❖ Amy Prentice – Executive Director
❖ aprentice@upal.com
❖ Phone: 918-858-0298
❖ Fax: 918-747-5596
❖ Toll Free: 866-664-4301



OKLAHOMA CHAPTER
AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS

An increase in costs for uncompensated care is also likely if this waiver is approved and implemented. As more Oklahomans lose their health coverage, they will begin to visit emergency departments, a much more expensive source of care. And as that coverage would be provided regardless of the patient's ability to pay, the state would see increased uncompensated care costs, while also putting a greater strain on our safety-net hospitals and clinics. This at a time when Oklahoma's uninsured rate remains at 13.8%, one of the highest in the nation.

The intent of the Medicaid program is to provide needed coverage to low-income residents—most of whom already work—who cannot afford private insurance. Adding an onerous work requirement as proposed contradicts the very nature of Medicaid as a health care lifeline for those most in need.

This waiver proposal creates additional complexity to the Medicaid program for traditionally eligible beneficiaries while likely adding administrative costs. The waiver is also likely to increase health care system costs, including that of uncompensated care for the parents who inevitably lose coverage. It is for all these reasons that we strongly urge reconsideration of this waiver proposal.

We hope the state takes the thoughts of Oklahoma's pediatricians into consideration as it contemplates this waiver amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this application. If you have questions about our concerns, please contact the OKAAP office at 918-858-0298.

Sincerely,

Laura McGuinn
OKAAP President

Dwight Sublett
OKAAP Vice President

Oklahoma Chapter AAP
6840 S. Trenton Ave.
Tulsa, OK 74136

Website: www.OKAAP.org

❖ **Laura McGuinn, MD, FAAP**
❖ President
❖ **Dwight Sublett, MD, FAAP**
❖ Vice President
❖ **Paul Darden, MD, FAAP**
❖ Secretary/Treasurer

❖ Amy Prentice – Executive Director
❖ aprentice@upal.com
❖ Phone: 918-858-0298
❖ Fax: 918-747-5596
❖ Toll Free: 866-664-4301

August 27, 2018

Oklahoma Health Care Authority
Federal and State Policy Division
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**RE: Oklahoma Health Care Authority SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and
Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request (Project Number 11-W-00048/6)**

To Whom It May Concern:

As social scientists and scholars of health policy, we write to provide comments on the Oklahoma Health Care Authority's (OHCA) request to amend its SoonerCare Research and Demonstration Waiver under Section 1115(a).¹ In our professional opinion, the proposed amendment, which will affect at least 6,000 low-income Oklahoma residents, would not advance—and may ultimately undermine—Medicaid's goal of furnishing access to medical care, as stated in 42 U.S.C. 1396-1, and reinforced by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) guidance.² Therefore, we strongly urge the OHCA to suspend the development of this proposal. We provide supporting evidence for this argument below.

OHCA has made misleading and inaccurate representations of studies cited in support of its 1115(a) amendment application.

The stated purpose of Medicaid is to enable each state, as far as is practicable, “to furnish medical assistance” to individuals “whose income and resources are insufficient to meet the costs of necessary medical services” and to provide “rehabilitation and other services to help such families and individuals attain or retain capability for independence or self-care.”³

The Secretary of Health and Human Services may grant a Section 1115 Medicaid waiver only to experimental, pilot, or demonstration projects that are “likely to assist in promoting the objectives” of the Medicaid Act.⁴ In its State Medicaid Director letter on work and community-engagement requirements, CMS notes that states “will need to link” requirements for work and community engagement to “those outcomes [producing improved health and well-being] and

¹ Oklahoma Health Care Authority, SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request, Project number 11-W-00048/6.

² CMS, State Medicaid Director Letter SMD 18-002, RE: Opportunities to Promote Work and Community Engagement Among Medicaid Beneficiaries, January 11, 2018.

³ 42 U.S.C. 1396-1.

⁴ 42 U.S.C. 1315(a).

ultimately assess the effectiveness of the demonstration in furthering the health and wellness objectives of the Medicaid program.”⁵

OHCA’s amendment request claims that “the correlation between employment and health for the general population is well established and presented in several large-scale literature reviews and meta-analyses.”⁶ This is at best a misleading characterization of the evidence cited by OHCA and is contradicted time and again by the published research literature. OHCA cites a 2005 meta-analytic study to support its argument that work requirements will enhance the well-being of SoonerCare members.⁷ Yet this misrepresents the authors’ findings. Not only do the authors explicitly suggest that they cannot establish a causal relationship between unemployment and mental health, they argue that their correlative evidence shows that:

...there are several aspects of unemployment experience (e.g., financial concerns, work-role centrality) that are the actual factors responsible for reduced well-being during unemployment; meaning a causal suggestion of a relationship between unemployment and mental health is molar in nature, or at a very broad level (cf., Cook & Campbell, 1979). For example, Price, Friedland, and Vinokur (1998) suggest that job loss and unemployment bring about a “cascade” of secondary stressors such as worry, uncertainty, and financial, family, and marital difficulties.⁸

OHCA also cites a 1995 study in support of its proposed amendment. Yet this study does not identify the direction of causality implied by OHCA. While the authors argue that full-time employment is associated with slower declines in physical and psychological function, they also find that, “physical functioning increases the odds of getting or keeping a full-time job for both sexes.”⁹

Finally, OHCA cites a study examining a hypothesis formulated by social psychologist Marie Jahoda that employment is the only source of five “latent functions” in society that sustain mental health.¹⁰ Yet the study draws only a web-based survey undertaken in Germany, which has a universal multi-payer system and compulsory health insurance. Generalizing from these findings to the US context—where unemployment is associated with significant gaps in access to healthcare—is inappropriate. Whatever policy implications one might draw from this study, it does not support the argument conditioning health care access on meeting work requirements will improve health outcomes.

⁵ CMS, State Medicaid Director Letter SMD 18-002, RE: Opportunities to Promote Work and Community Engagement Among Medicaid Beneficiaries, January 11, 2018.

⁶ Oklahoma Health Care Authority, SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request, p. 5.

⁷ McKee-Ryan F, Song Z, Wanberg CR, Kinicki AJ. *J Appl Psychol* 2009; 90(1), 53-76.

⁸ Id., 67.

⁹ Ross CE, Mirowsky J. Does employment affect health? *J Health Soc Behav* 1995; 36(3): 230-243.

¹⁰ Paul KI, Geithner E, Moser K. Latent deprivation among people who are employed, unemployed, or out of the labor force. *J Psychol* 2009; 143(5): 477-491.

The studies cited by OHCA refer mainly to mental and physical health outcomes such as perceived health status and functionality. Yet none of the hypotheses developed by OHCA in its evaluation design relates to the effect of work requirements on these outcomes. The only health-related hypotheses proposed concern the effects of work requirements on health care utilization (e.g. emergency room visits and hospitalization). In both of these cases, OHCA expects to see utilization decline following the implementation of work requirements. Yet the evidence here suggests that it is entirely possible that decline in utilization would result not from improved health status but from significantly reduced Medicaid eligibility. Tellingly, the majority of the hypotheses proposed by OHCA concern either the effect of work requirements on employment, volunteerism, or the size of the “Medicaid roles [*sic*].”¹¹

Contrary to CMS guidance, public health research does not support a causal relationship between employment status and health outcomes.

As in OHCA’s application, CMS’s guidance to states on work and community engagement requirements misrepresents the findings of research it cites to establish a relationship between employment and health outcomes.¹² Four examples will suffice here:

- A) CMS guidance cites a 2016 *JAMA* study to support the claim that employment is associated with better health outcomes.¹³ Yet the overall purpose of the study was to examine the trends in and sources of the socioeconomic gradient in life expectancy in the United States. On page 1759 of the study, the authors write: “Unemployment rates, changes in population, and changes in the size of the labor force (all measures of local labor market conditions) *were not significantly associated with life expectancy among individuals in the bottom income quartile* [emphasis added].”¹⁴ The *JAMA* study thus appears to contradict CMS’s premise that employment rates in lower-income populations will causally improve health. It is important to note that, while a link between social class status and health outcomes may exist, social class status should not be conflated with employment status. The groundbreaking Whitehall Studies conducted among tens of thousands of civil servants – all of whom were gainfully employed by the British government – demonstrated a higher rate of mortality among those with lower social class.¹⁵ Indeed, the World Health Organization’s Commission on the Social Determinants of Health cites a number of studies suggesting that in some occupations, employment is correlated with negative health outcomes, such as higher mortality rates among temporary workers when compared to those engaged in permanent work.¹⁶ Recently, scientists at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recently documented

¹¹ Oklahoma Health Care Authority, SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request, p. 15.

¹² CMS, State Medicaid Director Letter SMD 18-002.

¹³ Chetty R, Stepner M, Abraham S, et al. The association between income and life expectancy in the United States, 2001-2014. *JAMA*. 2016; 315(16):1750-1766

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Marmot M., Stansfeld S, Patel C, et al. Health inequalities among British civil servants: the Whitehall II study. *Lancet* 1991; 337(8754): 1387-1393.

¹⁶ Commission on the Social Determinants of Health, *Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health*. World Health Organization, 2008.

an alarming cluster of black lung cases among coal miners in Kentucky, Virginia, and West Virginia. Because black lung is caused by workplace exposure to silica dust, it is clear that employment in coal mines, relative to unemployment, caused poor health outcomes in these cases.¹⁷

- B) CMS also cites a 2002 study published in the *International Journal of Epidemiology* to support the claim that “education...can lead to improved health by increasing health knowledge and healthy behaviors.”¹⁸ Yet the study cited does not examine health knowledge or healthy behaviors as outcomes. Rather, the study examines the long-term effects of social class status and unemployment on limiting long-term illness among the male working population in England and Wales. On page 338 of the study, the authors write: “In the fully adjusted model, unemployment at both time points, and membership of the most disadvantaged social classes at all three times, each retain the ability to predict ill-health 10 to 20 years after they have occurred.” The authors conclude that: “Short term improvements in health inequality may not prove easy to obtain in areas of large scale de-industrialization, where many citizens have experienced two decades or more of economic hardship and its social consequences.” These findings do not support the hypothesis that work requirements will causally improve health in Medicaid eligible populations.
- C) CMS cites a 2014 review article published in *Occupational and Environmental Medicine* to support the claim that there is a “protective effect of employment on depression and general mental health.”¹⁹ Yet on page 735 of that study, the authors note that they cannot establish a causal link between employment and health: “...the relationship between employment and health can be bi-directional. This means that the positive health effects of employment can be affected by the fact that healthier people are more likely to get and stay in employment.” It is thus not clear that data support a hypothesis that employment causes improved mental health – in fact, it is just as reasonable to hypothesize that poor mental health causes unemployment. Further still, evidence suggests that work requirements can be negatively associated with physical and mental health. A recent study published in *Health Affairs* found that participants in a Florida welfare reform experiment whose benefits were conditioned on workforce participation had a 16 percent higher mortality rate than comparable recipients of welfare who were not subject to work stipulations (the control group).²⁰ Additionally, a 2008 study of TANF implementation among parents found that “strong emphasis on efforts to push welfare clients into low-wage employment may have adverse effects on the ways in which welfare programs affect low-income women’s mental health outcomes.”²¹

¹⁷ Blackley D, Reynolds L, Short C, et al. Progressive Massive Fibrosis in Coal Miners From 3 Clinics in Virginia. *JAMA* 2018; 319(5): 500-501.

¹⁸ CMS, State Medicaid Director Letter SMD 18-002.

¹⁹ Id.

²⁰ Muennig, P., Rosen Z. and Wilde E. Welfare Programs That Target Workforce Participation May Negatively Affect Mortality. *Health Aff.* 32 (6): 1072–1077, 2013.

²¹ Morris, P. Welfare Program Implementation and Parents’ Depression. *Soc. Serv Rev* 2008; 82 (4): 602.

D) In general, the empirical evidence is far more persuasive that ill health leads to reduced employment and earnings—and preventing people from accessing health insurance will worsen health. For example, a summary of existing research published in *Medical Care Research and Review* found that improving health would increase earnings by 15-20 percent.²² A recent review of evidence published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* persuasively shows the generally positive impacts of having health insurance on health, especially depression, which has a significantly negative impact on labor force participation.²³ Further, none of the evidence presented by CMS can speak to the effective causal mechanism that would occur in the Medicaid waiver: forcing people into the workforce at the risk of losing their health insurance.

Oklahoma’s proposed amendment is unlikely to improve individuals’ earnings or financial stability.

Research on the trajectory of TANF recipients after welfare reform suggests that despite “extensive work effort...job instability and limited upward mobility (i.e. transitions to good jobs) characterized the employment experiences of most respondents.”²⁴ More generally, even people who find employment after the enactment of work requirements continue to experience significant and persistent material hardship.²⁵ Long-term studies of participation in 11 mandatory welfare-to-work programs nationwide suggest that participants in these programs experienced few economic gains. The programs led to individuals “replacing welfare and Food Stamp dollars with dollars from earnings and Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs), but the programs did not increase income above the low levels of the control group.”²⁶ Moreover, the rate of job finding among participants did not increase significantly when compared to the control group.

Recent research has also suggested that any gain in earnings among low-skilled individuals under TANF has been offset by significant losses in transfer income.²⁷ Employment effects of TANF are also racially disparate. Structural disparities and employment discrimination have made it more difficult for African Americans receiving TANF to find work.²⁸ In general, TANF has not provided protection for individuals in poverty, especially during difficult-to-foresee

²² Hadley J. Sicker and poorer—The consequences of being uninsured: A review of the research on the relationship between health insurance, medical care use, health, work, and income. *Med. Care Res Rev* 2003; 60(2, suppl): 3S-75S.

²³ Sommers B, Gawande A, Baicker K. Health Insurance Coverage and Health—What the Recent Evidence Tells Us. *N Engl J Med* 2017; 377(6): 586-593.

²⁴ Johnson R, Corcoran M. The Road to Economic Self-Sufficiency: Job Quality and Job Transition Patterns after Welfare Reform. *J Pol Anal Manag* 2003; 22 (4): 615-639.

²⁵ Danziger S, Heflin C, Corcoran M, et al. Does it Pay to Move from Welfare to Work? *J Pol Anal Manag* 2002; 21 (4): 671-692.

²⁶ Hamilton G, Freedman S, Geentian L, et al. National Evaluation of Welfare-to-Work Strategies: How Effective Are Different Welfare-to-Work Approaches. Five-Year Adult and Child Impacts for Eleven Programs. Washington, DC: US Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families and Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation; and US Department of Education, 2001.

²⁷ Bollinger C, Gonzlaez L, Ziliak J. Welfare reform and the level and composition of income. *Welfare Reform and its Long-Term Consequences for America’s Poor*. Cambridge University Press, 2009: 59-103.

²⁸ Hahn H, Pratt E, Allen E, et al. Work Requirements in Social Safety Net Programs: A Status Report of Work Requirements in TANF, SNAP, Housing Assistance, and Medicaid, Urban Institute, 2017.

economic downturns. A comparative analysis of the effects of safety-net programs on the cyclicity of poverty during the Great Recession shows that TANF had no statistically significant effect on poverty reduction.²⁹ Moreover, a recent comprehensive review of the evidence on TANF's effects on the health outcomes of participants to be "too mixed or even nonexistent."³⁰

Though the federal government strongly supports and consistently encourages work requirements, their rationale for doing so is both out of step with the core purpose of Medicaid and empirically ungrounded. The Council of Economic Advisers' (CEA) July 2018 report entitled, "Expanding Work Requirements in Non-Cash Welfare Programs" provides key examples on both counts.³¹ The CEA report emphasizes improving "self-sufficiency," decreasing "dependency" and increasing employment.³² The CEA report thus reflects the inattention to the statutory goals of Medicaid. Though the report mentions Medicaid over 150 times, it does not discuss healthcare or offer any evidence that work requirements will increase access to health benefits. Instead, it justifies work requirements in terms of enhanced labor force participation, relying primarily on the experience of TANF, a program with different goals from Medicaid, and established in statute with the deliberate goal of imposing work requirements in mind. The CEA report does not speak to the experience of those who lost benefits as a result of new requirements, but an analysis of a national sample of TANF exits found that administrative burdens helped explain reductions in TANF caseloads, and fell harder on those in extreme poverty.³³ The federal government's own justification for work requirements therefore reflects a disinterest in the statutory requirement for Medicaid to furnish medical assistance, or a concern about what will happen to those who struggle with the administrative burdens arising from the new work requirements.

The logic and evidence underlying the CEA report is also based on inaccurate and incomplete evidentiary claims. Drawing on 2014 data from the Survey of Income and Program Participation, the CEA report claims that 60 percent of non-disabled adult Medicaid beneficiaries "worked few if any hours each week."³⁴ Yet, recent data from the Current Population Survey (CPS) offers more nuanced insight into the employment circumstances that Medicaid beneficiaries face. Analyses of CPS data indicate that in 2016, 43 percent of non-elderly, non-disabled adult

²⁹ Bitler M, Hoynes H. The more things change, the more they stay the same? The safety net and poverty in the Great Recession. *J Labor Econ* 2016; 34(S1): S403-S444

³⁰ Ziliak J. *Temporary Assistance for Needy Families*, No. w21038. National Bureau of Economic Research, 2015.; See also: Kaestner R, Tarlov E. Changes in the welfare caseload and the health of low-educated mothers. *J Pol Anal Manag* 2006; 25(3): 623-643.

³¹ The Council of Economic Advisers. July 2018. "Expanding Work Requirements in Non-Cash Welfare Programs." Executive Office of the President of the United States.

³² *Id.*, 17.

³³ Brodtkin E, Majmundar M. Administrative Exclusion: Organizations and the Hidden Costs of Welfare Claiming. *J Pub Admin Res Theory* 2010; 20(4): 827-848.

³⁴ The Council of Economic Advisers. July 2018. "Expanding Work Requirements in Non-Cash Welfare Programs." Executive Office of the President of the United States, page 17.

Medicaid beneficiaries worked full time.³⁵ Among the remaining 57 percent, 15 percent were out of work because of illness or poor health, 6 percent were attending school, 11 percent were not working due to caregiving and 19 percent worked part-time. That leaves just 6 percent of beneficiaries to whom work requirements would likely apply.³⁶ So, while the CEA report claims that “low employment rates of non-disabled working age recipients” necessitates policy intervention, available evidence runs counter to that supposition.³⁷ Finally, even the CEA report acknowledges that some beneficiaries will “experience negative effects.”³⁸ The CEA notes that to address this, it is necessary to “support recipients overcoming barriers to employment (lack of access to childcare, mental illness or criminal records.”³⁹ However, Mississippi’s work requirement includes no such provisions. Hence, the waiver application falls short even per the (empirically unsubstantiated) proposals laid out by the White House Council of Economic Advisers.

Oklahoma’s proposed work requirements would impose burdens on individuals eligible for Medicaid that may put them at risk of losing access to healthcare.

The proposed amendment states that the new program will help beneficiaries attain “long-term independence, success, better health, and well-being.” However, a substantial body of research shows that even minor requirements and barriers can cause people to fail to participate in programs even when they value and need the benefits involved.⁴⁰ People suffering from intense poverty tend to struggle more than others in overcoming such burdens.⁴¹ A simple example are requirements to provide online documentation to verify compliance with new mandates. Given that 30 percent of Medicaid adults report they never use a computer, 28 percent say they do not use the internet, and 41 percent do not use email, it is unrealistic to expect that such a population will possess the technological literacy to navigate online documentation processes.⁴²

Reporting burdens would fall hardest on low-income employees, where the labor market features frequent churning in and out of jobs, unstable hours, and a lack of easy access to documentation. For example, about 1 in 10 workers who earn \$10 an hour transition from their jobs each month, compared to just 1 in 25 of those earning \$25 an hour.⁴³ Lower-income employees therefore

³⁵ Garfield, Rachel, Robin Ruowidtz and MaryBeth Musumeci. June 2018. “Implications of a Medicaid Work Requirement: National Estimates of Potential Coverage Losses.” Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief.

³⁶ Garfield, Rachel, Robin Ruowidtz and MaryBeth Musumeci. June 2018. “Implications of a Medicaid Work Requirement: National Estimates of Potential Coverage Losses.” Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief.

³⁷ The Council of Economic Advisers. July 2018. “Expanding Work Requirements in Non-Cash Welfare Programs.” Executive Office of the President of the United States, p. 1

³⁸ Id., 2.

³⁹ Id., 3.

⁴⁰ Moynihan D, Herd P, Harvey H. Administrative Burdens: Learning, Psychological and Compliance Costs in Citizen-State Interactions. *J Pub Admin Res Theory* 2015; 25(1): 43-69.

⁴¹ Mani A., Mullainathan S. Shafir, E, et al. Poverty impedes cognitive function. *Science* 2013; 341: 976-980.

⁴² Garfield, Rachel, Robin Rudowitz, MaryBeth Musucemi and Anthony Damico. 2018. "Implications of Work Requirement in Medicaid: What Does the Data Say." Kaiser Family Foundation, June 12, Access at: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/implications-of-work-requirements-in-medicaid-what-does-the-data-say/>

⁴³ Bivens J, Fremstad S. 2018. Why Punitive Work-hours Tests in SNAP and Medicaid Would Harm Workers and do Nothing to Raise Employment. Economic Policy Institute. [epi.org/151107](https://www.epi.org/151107)

face additional burdens to maintain documentation of their work status. The informal nature of the much of the service industry also places additional burdens on those working there.

OHCA has likely underestimated the population to which its proposed work requirements will apply.

In its amendment request, the OHCA proposes, as a condition of eligibility, to require non-exempt individuals aged 19-50 to work an average twenty (20) hours or more per week each month in “paid, in-kind, unpaid, or volunteer work,” comply with the requirements of one of three work programs for at least twenty (20) hours per week, participate in community service programs “with religious or community organizations at least twenty (20) hours per week, or meet “any combination of work, participating in work training or volunteering for work twenty (20) hours or more per week, averaged monthly.”⁴⁴

OHCA estimates that its proposed requirement will apply to “approximately 6,000 members” of the approximately 102,000 adult members 19 through 50 in SoonerCare.⁴⁵ There are three problems with this analysis. First, with the limited data provided by OHCA, this figure is difficult to verify. OHCA should provide an impact analysis that draws on data from the American Community Survey to estimate the number of SoonerCare members in Oklahoma, statewide and by region, who are: (1) exempt (broken out by category of exemption); (2) potentially subject to work requirements and already working; and (3) potentially subject to work requirements and not working.⁴⁶

Second, the number of individuals affected by the administrative burden of work requirements is larger than the formally exempt population, since exempt SoonerCare members in the parent/caregiver population will presumably have to offer proof that they meet one of the listed exemption criteria. Further, given that some of these criteria are complex or vague, it is reasonable to expect that some SoonerCare members who actually meet exemption criteria will either erroneously assume that they are subject to work requirements.

Finally, OHCA has also failed to consider spillover effects of work requirements onto the child population. Research spanning the last two decades has consistently found that Medicaid coverage of parents leads to improved coverage and healthcare utilization among children. A 2003 study published in *Health Services Research* found that expansion of Medicaid coverage to parents increased insurance coverage among children by 14 percentage points, largely due to a reduction in uninsured children.⁴⁷ A recent study published in *Health Affairs* determined children’s coverage increased by 5.7 percentage-points after Medicaid expansion, relative to a 2.7 percentage-point increase in states that did not expand Medicaid.⁴⁸ Importantly, a recent

⁴⁴ Oklahoma Health Care Authority, SoonerCare 1115(a) Research and Demonstration Waiver Amendment Request, p. 7-8.

⁴⁵ Id., 10.

⁴⁶ See, e.g. Gangopadhyaya A, Kenney GM, Who Could Be Affected by Kentucky’s Medicaid Work Requirements and What Do We Know About Them?, Urban Institute Brief, Updated March 2018, https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/2018.03.05_ky_medicaid_numbers_finalized.pdf.

⁴⁷ Dubay L, Kenney G. Expansion Public Health Insurance to Parents: Effects on Children’s Coverage Under Medicaid. *Health Services Research* 2003; 38(5):1283-1302.

⁴⁸ Hudson JL, Morriya AS. Medicaid Expansion for Adults had Measurable Welcome Mat Effects on their Children. *Health Aff* 2017;36(9): 1643-51.

study in *Pediatrics* found that Medicaid expansions for low-income adults led to a 29 percentage-point greater probability of well child visit utilization among children.⁴⁹ The importance of children's use of preventive care is recognized by CMS as a core quality indicator in Medicaid.⁵⁰ Given this evidence base, any loss of coverage among parents is likely to have negative spillover effects on children's health. We suggest that, at minimum, Oklahoma take action to mitigate negative consequences for children whose health is affected by their parents' loss of Medicaid coverage.

The proposed exemptions from work requirements are arbitrary.

Pages 8-9 of the waiver application contain a list of exemptions from the work requirements. These exemptions are arbitrary and are at odds with the state's claims that work will cause health to improve. For example, if one did believe that work improved physical and mental health, then it would in fact be cruel to exempt pregnant and postpartum women – who are at risk of depression – from the work requirements. There is no justification for the child caretaker exemption. The age limit on caring for children is completely arbitrary, as it is unclear why caring for a child age 5 years and 11 months of age is different from caring for a child age 6 years and 1 month of age.

The hypotheses in the application are unsupported by evidence and are contradictory. There is no evaluation plan.

The application hypothesizes that the new work requirements will reduce emergency department visits and inpatient hospital admissions, and will increase the number of people entering the workforce. These hypotheses are not supported by any published data. Additionally, the hypotheses directly contradict each other. For example, the proposed evaluation of the first hypothesis is to compare hospitalizations for those subject to work requirements to those exempt from work requirements. It is unclear how the study of hospitalizations will occur because the sixth hypothesis is that those subject to work requirements will disenroll from Medicaid. There is no evaluation design presented. No information is provided on data sources, study design, measurement of specific outcomes, statistical power or thematic saturation, or how individuals who are disenrolled from the Medicaid program will be studied over the evaluation time period. Additionally, the application does not describe any plans to study unanticipated outcomes or spillover effects.

As Oklahoma's proposed 1115(a) amendment is not likely to further the objectives of the Medicaid Act, OHCA should suspend development of the waiver.

Our review of the evidence here suggests that Oklahoma's proposed 1115(a) amendment is unlikely to enhance participant health or well-being; financial stability; or access to health insurance coverage. On the contrary, the proposal may cause negative consequences for the health and well-being of individuals and families who already bear the burden of living in

⁴⁹ Venkataramani M, Pollack CE, Roberts ET. Spillover Effects of Adult Medicaid Expansions on Children's Use of Preventive Services. *Pediatrics* 2017;140(6): e20170953.

⁵⁰ See, e.g.: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/quality-of-care/performance-measurement/child-core-set/index.html>

poverty. Given the preponderance of evidence suggesting that such work requirements have negative effects on program participation, it is unlikely to further the objectives of the Medicaid Act, with negative consequences for low-income Oklahoma families. Therefore, we urge OHCA to suspend development of this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Marian Jarlenski, PhD
Assistant Professor, Health Policy and
Management
University of Pittsburgh
Graduate School of Public Health

Philip Rocco, PhD
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Marquette University

Pamela Herd, PhD
Professor of Public Affairs and Sociology
Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Jamila Michener, PhD
Assistant Professor of Government
Cornell University

Donald Moynihan, PhD
Professor of Public Affairs
Robert M. La Follette School of Public Affairs
University of Wisconsin-Madison



MATT KEPPLER
Regional Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs
Central Region
AR, IL, KS, MN, MO, ND, OK, SD, TX, WI

T (314) 306-5310
E mkeppler@marchofdimes.org
MARCHOFDIMES.ORG

August 31, 2018

Becky Pasternik-Ikard
Medicaid Director
State of Oklahoma, Oklahoma Health Care Authority
4345 N. Lincoln Blvd.
Oklahoma City, OK 73105

Re: 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application

Dear Director Pasternik-Ikard:

The mission of March of Dimes is to lead the fight for the health of all moms and babies. I am writing today to submit comments on the 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application.

March of Dimes urges all states to ensure that their Medicaid plans adhere to the following principles:

- Medicaid programs must promote health coverage. The purpose of the Medicaid program is to provide health coverage and promote access to care for qualifying individuals. Any changes to the program should be made with the intention of improving, not limiting, access to vital health care services.
- Pregnant women and children must be exempt from any requirement or penalty that could cause them to lose coverage. Women must be able to access health care consistently throughout the prenatal and postpartum periods. Gaps in coverage could cause them to miss important appointments or be unable to receive services critical to the health of their pregnancy and baby.
- Medicaid must provide consistent, reliable coverage to women of childbearing age. The best time to help a woman ensure a healthy pregnancy is before she is pregnant. Women need regular care to manage both acute and chronic conditions that could impact the health of future pregnancies. When women have coverage only sporadically, they cannot access the care they need to maintain good health or address new conditions. Medicaid programs should seek to minimize churn and promote consistent coverage for all women of childbearing age.
- Medicaid should work sensibly with other assistance programs to promote the health and well-being of families. Too often, women and families face arbitrary, inconsistent thresholds and requirements for eligibility. As a result, a small or temporary change in earnings or other factors can cause them to lose health coverage or other important benefits. In addition, burdensome paperwork or recordkeeping requirements can endanger the health of families by causing them to lose coverage even when they comply with all requirements. Programs should be designed to work together in a sensible fashion to support the health and wellbeing of individuals and families.



MATT KEPPLER
Regional Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs
Central Region
AR, IL, KS, MN, MO, ND, OK, SD, TX, WI

T (314) 306-5310
E mkeppler@marchofdimes.org
MARCHOFDIMES.ORG

SoonerCare covers parents and caretakers and disabled individuals with incomes at or below 45 percent of the federal poverty level (approximately \$779 per month for a family of 3). The proposed waiver amendment seeks to add new barriers to accessing coverage. Individuals between the ages of 19 and 50 would be required to either demonstrate that they work at least 80 hours per month or meet exemptions. One major consequence of this proposal will be to increase the administrative burden on all people receiving services. Individuals will need to attest that they meet certain exemptions or have worked the required number of hours on a monthly basis.

Many factors contribute to rates for employment or education among Medicaid recipients, such as health status, availability of affordable child care, and access to transportation, among others. None of these factors reduce the need for health care. Despite lower rates of employment, most Medicaid recipients who can work do so. Census data show that 60% of adult non-elderly Medicaid recipients who do not receive Supplemental Security Income work and 79% live in families where at least one family member is working. Within the adult expansion population, at least 74% of Medicaid enrollees are either employed or enrolled in school. A study of Michigan's Medicaid enrollees found among the 28% who were unemployed, two-thirds had at least one chronic physical condition and one quarter had a health condition (either physical or mental) that interfered with their ability to work.

While little evidence exists on the impact of work requirements on the health of Medicaid enrollees, previous analyses of work requirements in state Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) programs showed that work requirements have little effect on employment rates and do not improve rates of poverty. March of Dimes will measure any proposed changes to state Medicaid programs against these principles.

Increasing administrative requirements will likely decrease the number of individuals with Medicaid coverage, regardless of whether they are exempt or not. For example, Arkansas is currently implementing a similar policy requiring Medicaid enrollees to report their hours worked or their exemption. According to the state's own report on the second month of implementation, 5,426 individuals did not meet the reporting requirement for two consecutive months and are at risk of losing coverage on September 1, at which point they would be locked out of coverage until January 2019.ⁱ An additional 6,531 individuals did meet the reporting requirement for one month and also remain at risk for losing their coverage.ⁱⁱ Washington state has experienced a similar situation when it changed its renewal process from every twelve months to every six months and instituted new documentation requirements in 2003, approximately 35,000 fewer children were enrolled in the program by the end of 2004.ⁱⁱⁱ Battling administrative red tape in order to keep coverage should not take away from people's focus on maintaining their personal health or that of their family.

Failing to navigate these burdensome administrative requirements could have serious – even life or death – consequences for people with serious, acute and chronic diseases, including women, children, and families. If the state finds that individuals have failed to comply with the new requirements for three months, they will be locked out of coverage until the individual is able to meet the requirement. People who are in the middle of treatment for a life-threatening disease, rely on regular visits with healthcare providers or must take daily medications to manage their chronic conditions cannot afford a sudden gap in their care.

March of Dimes is concerned that the current exemption criteria may not capture all individuals with, or at risk of, serious and chronic health conditions that prevent them from meeting these requirements. While we support people



MATT KEPPLER
Regional Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs
Central Region
AR, IL, KS, MN, MO, ND, OK, SD, TX, WI

T (314) 306-5310
E mkeppler@marchofdimes.org
MARCHOFDIMES.ORG

having the option to demonstrate that they qualify for an exemption through self-attestation, the reporting process still creates opportunities for administrative error that could jeopardize coverage. No exemption criteria can circumvent this problem and the serious risk to the coverage and health of the people we represent.

Finally, there is little detail on how the new requirements will be implemented and enforced. Even more troubling is that the application claims the proposal will have no impact on enrollment as part of the budget neutrality assumption. The proposal does not predict the impact of the waiver on enrollment (with or without waiver baseline) or cost savings over 5 years. The federal rules at 431.408 pertaining to state public comment process require at (a)(1)(i)(C) that a state include an estimate of the expected increase or decrease in annual enrollment and expenditures if applicable. The intent of this section of the regulations is to allow the public to comment on a Section 1115 proposal with adequate information to assess its impact. In order to meet these transparency requirements, Oklahoma must include these projections and their impact on budget neutrality. If Oklahoma intends to move ahead with this proposal, the state should at a minimum provide the required information to the public and reopen the comment period for an additional 30 days.

March of Dimes believes women, children, and their families should have access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage. Oklahoma's 2018 SoonerCare Choice and Insure Oklahoma 1115(a) Demonstration Waiver Public Notice and Amended Application does not advance that goal. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Matthew Keppler'.

Matthew Keppler
Regional Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs

ⁱ Joan Alker and Maggie Clark, "After Two Months Under New Work Requirements, Thousands of Arkansans May Lose Medicaid Without Even Realizing the Rules Changed," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families. August 15, 2018. Accessed at: <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2018/08/15/after-two-months-under-new-work-requirements-thousands-of-arkansans-may-lose-medicaid-without-even-realizing-the-rules-changed/>.

ⁱⁱ Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services, Arkansas Works Program, July 2018 Report. Accessed at: https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/081418_AWReport_July.pdf.

ⁱⁱⁱ Tricia Brooks, "Data Reporting to Assess Enrollment and Retention in Medicaid and SCHIP," Georgetown University Health Policy Institute Center for Children and Families, January 2009.