



# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

December 14, 2023

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

I am reaching out regarding New Mexico's efforts to improve the voter registration process for Medicaid applicants while maintaining the federal confidentiality standards governing Medicaid program data. I appreciate the attention that you and other officials at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have dedicated to the consideration of automatic voter registration (AVR) in Medicaid thus far.

Earlier this year, I signed [HB 4](#) into law, giving the Secretary of State authority to require a secure, post-transaction opt-out automatic voter registration system at Medicaid to improve the voter registration process for all eligible New Mexican beneficiaries.

Ensuring that underrepresented and historically disenfranchised Americans have every opportunity to register for and exercise their right to vote is of the utmost importance to my Administration. Preliminary data from states with similar legislation indicates that expanding AVR to Medicaid will effectively reach the eligible but unregistered New Mexicans that are not reached through other voter registration systems. Given the significant impact that this system could have for New Mexico, we are eager to implement a Medicaid AVR system that maximizes voter registration rates while establishing appropriate protections for applicant data. Further, because New Mexico uses an integrated eligibility system for SNAP and Medicaid — and since more than half of New Mexico Medicaid customers are also enrolled in the SNAP program — our state is interested in ensuring alignment between the two programs. Accordingly, I'd like to request that you make your team available to meet with members of my staff along with the New Mexico Human Services Department and the Secretary of State's office to discuss our plans for implementation of Medicaid AVR and any forthcoming guidance from CMS.

I thank you for your consideration and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Lujan Grisham". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "M".

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor