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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 18, 2019

***TPCA Statement on TennCare Block Grant Proposal***

(NASHVILLE, Tenn.) -- On September 17, 2019, TennCare released a draft proposal to convert the majority of federal financing for the state's Medicaid program into a modified block grant. [Amendment 42](#) seeks to exclude some expenditures from the transition to block grant funding, share in savings currently realized by the federal government due to TennCare's 1115 waiver, and allow TennCare increased flexibility related to federal mandates. The proposal specifies that the block grant financing is not intended to change enrollment criteria or reduce benefits packages.

As the membership organization for community health centers in Tennessee, the Tennessee Primary Care Association is committed to improving access to primary care by advocating for community health centers and the 422,000 patients they serve. Maintaining the integrity of the TennCare program is crucial to the long-term sustainability of community health centers and the health and well-being of the Tennesseans who seek care from them, one-third of whom are covered by Medicaid.

TPCA will continue to monitor developments related to the Amendment proposal to ensure the interests of community health centers and their patients are represented throughout the public comment and notice period. For more information on the Amendment proposal, including information about public comments and hearings, please see the [Notice of Change in TennCare II Demonstration:](#)

[Amendment](#). A state public comment period opened on September 17; it closes on October 18, 2019.

Comments can be emailed to [public.notice.tenncare@tn.gov](mailto:public.notice.tenncare@tn.gov). According to state law, Tennessee has until November 20, 2019, to consider public input and submit the proposal to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

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