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Subject: Consolidated Waiver Renewal

Attached please find a copy of the letter from CMS renewing the Consolidated Waiver. Many of you have been involved in the process of getting to this point, and I wanted to thank you very much for your assistance. This is a very nice way to start the long holiday weekend.

It is tempting to want to sit back, relax, and breathe a sigh of relief. Our job is to do the opposite. There is much work to do over the next several years to live up to the commitments we have made to CMS in this process. We will be starting this work immediately, and we will need your help as we go.

Much of the work will involve significant change to the system of supports for people with mental retardation. Change is never easy, but we are obligated to make that change, and continue the work to make this system the best system of supports for self advocates and families in the nation.

You have my personal pledge, and the pledge of OMR that we will work as hard as we can towards that goal. We ask your help and support as we proceed.

Have a great holiday season.

Kevin T. Casey
Deputy Secretary
Office of Mental Retardation