



PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSION

Date: Sept. 14, 2026

To: Georgia Department of Community Health (DCH)

Reference: Georgia Pathways to Coverage (Working Families Tax Cut/H.R. 1 legislation)

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Georgia Life Sciences, the statewide trade association representing Georgia's life sciences industry, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the Georgia Pathways to Coverage program.

Georgia Life Sciences represents organizations working across the development and delivery of medicines, diagnostics, medical technologies and other health innovations. Georgia's life sciences sector is a significant economic engine for the state, supporting more than 215,000 jobs and generating approximately \$50 billion in statewide economic output. Across our community, a consistent priority is ensuring that patients can access medically necessary care and that administrative processes do not unintentionally create barriers to treatment.

As Georgia prepares for changes to Pathways resulting from new federal requirements, we encourage the Department of Community Health to make **continuity of care and minimizing unnecessary barriers to care central to implementation**.

This is particularly important for Georgians living with serious, chronic, rare and medically complex conditions. These patients may rely on established relationships with specialists, ongoing medications and therapies, regular diagnostic monitoring, and carefully coordinated treatment plans. Even temporary disruptions in coverage can interrupt that continuum of care and potentially result in poorer health outcomes and greater downstream health care costs.

Through my service on Georgia's Rare Disease Advisory Council, I have also seen the challenges patients and families can face navigating coverage and access to care. I offer that perspective in my capacity as President & CEO of Georgia Life Sciences and not on behalf of the Council.

As DCH implements the new federal requirements, Georgia Life Sciences respectfully encourages the Department to:

- **Protect continuity of coverage and care** during eligibility determinations, redeterminations, exemptions and transitions between Medicaid eligibility categories;
- **Minimize administrative barriers** that could delay or interrupt access to medically necessary medications, diagnostics, therapies, medical technologies or specialty care;
- Ensure processes for individuals with **serious, chronic, rare or medically complex conditions** are sufficiently flexible to recognize individual clinical circumstances and do not rely exclusively on diagnosis lists or administrative classifications;
- Provide patients, caregivers and providers with **clear and timely information** about requirements, documentation, exemptions and changes in coverage status; and
- Establish appropriate safeguards and escalation pathways when an administrative delay or coverage disruption could interrupt an established course of treatment.

We recognize the significant operational work required as Georgia adapts its Medicaid programs to new federal requirements. As those changes are implemented, we encourage DCH to continue engaging patients, caregivers, providers and other health care stakeholders to identify unintended barriers and ensure that eligible Georgians can maintain appropriate access to care.



Georgia Life Sciences appreciates the Department's continued work on behalf of Georgia patients and families and welcomes the opportunity to serve as a resource as implementation moves forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "Maria Thacker Goethe".

Maria Thacker Goethe, MPH
President & CEO
Georgia Life Sciences
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