Tom Price  
Secretary of Health and Human Services  

Seema Verma  
Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services  

Sept. 20, 2017  

Dear Secretary Price and Administrator Verma:  

I am writing on behalf of the Association of Health Care Journalists to request a press conference by both of you to answer questions about the administration's initiatives in health care. In six months in office, you have taken few questions from the media, and yet changing the health care system is among the administration's signature projects. 

AHCJ is the world's largest organization of reporters and editors who cover health and health care. Our 1,500 members work at the nation's most influential publications, such as the Wall Street Journal and USA Today, as well as local outlets that are closely followed in their communities. We also represent a large contingent of professional freelance writers. 

Our goal is to understand the administration's policies so we can communicate them to the public. We have questions about the future of the nation's health care system, and our local Washington, D.C. chapter is especially interested in meeting with you. No matter what ultimately happens in Congress, there are many issues to talk about during this critical time. 

As specialists in health care, AHCJ members go deep. For example, AHCJ members may want to ask about the impending ACA open enrollment period, MACRA, Chapter 3200 Medicaid waivers, and other rules giving more flexibility for implementing federal law. 

I suggest that the session be held at HHS offices and streamed so that reporters outside the Beltway can also participate. 

Please let me know when and where you would like to hold this session so I can get the word out to AHCJ members. 

Sincerely,  

Ivan Oransky, M.D.  
President, Association of Health Care Journalists  

cc: Charmaine Yoest, Kelly Ceballos, Mark Weber, Matt Lloyd, Bill Hall