

April 19, 2023

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker McCarthy, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

As leading national, state, and local organizations dedicated to promoting the health and well-being of America's families, we are writing to underscore the critical importance of the Medicaid program and to express our united opposition to any proposals to cut Medicaid funding as part of upcoming negotiations over the federal budget, debt limit, or any other legislative priorities. We urge you to protect this vital program from cuts or harmful changes in any budget negotiations or other legislative venue this year.

Our health should not depend on our wealth in this country. Efforts to undermine Medicaid would harm millions of families whose health hangs in the balance when they cannot get the care they need otherwise. Medicaid is a lifeline to [91 million](#) Americans, providing insurance coverage for millions of children, veterans, and people who own and work at small businesses. The program is a critical source of coverage to people who have historically been egregiously underserved by our health care system including people of color, particularly in Black, Latino, Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander, and Indigenous communities, and people living in rural communities. It provides health insurance to [6.9 million](#) seniors and over [10 million](#) people with disabilities, and covers [54 percent](#) of long-term care services and [42 percent](#) of all births in the country. Additionally, more than [60 percent](#) of adults with disabilities qualified for Medicaid without supplemental security income (SSI), largely through Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The evidence is clear that when people have a reliable source of high-quality health coverage, they can access critical health services, including preventive care and behavioral health services; experience improved health outcomes and better overall health; and are protected against unexpected medical expenses. After the upheavals associated with the COVID-19 epidemic over the past three years, it is clearer than ever how critical Medicaid is to our country's health and financial well-being.

In recent years, proposals to cut the Medicaid program have been thinly disguised as policies such as "per capita spending caps," "block grants," "provider tax reforms," and bureaucratic "work requirements." Since the passage of the ACA thirteen years ago, there have been continued attempts to repeal or otherwise undermine Medicaid expansion, which covers 18 million people in 40 states and

Washington D.C., many of whom would otherwise go uninsured. No matter how they are framed, the reality of these policy proposals is that they destabilize state budgets and local economies, take health care away from millions of children, older adults, working parents, people with disabilities, and people of color with cascading harmful effects on small businesses, rural communities, health care providers and others.

These ideas are not new: they were resoundingly rejected by people across the country when they were proposed as part of efforts to repeal the ACA in 2017. Unsurprisingly, the American public continues to strongly oppose them – new polling shows that [71 percent](#) of Americans say it is important to prevent Medicaid cuts. Our collective message is as clear today as it was then: cuts to the Medicaid program are unacceptable.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

ACA Consumer Advocacy
ADAP Advocacy Association
AFL-CIO
AFSCME
Academic Pediatric Association
Advocates for Community Health
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Retired Americans
Allies for Independence
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association on Health and Disability
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American College of Physicians
American Dental Therapy Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Friends Service Committee
American Geriatrics Society
American Lung Association
American Pediatric Society
American Public Health Association
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
COVID Survivors for Change
Cancer Support Community
Caring Across Generations
Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Child Neurology Foundation
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Doctors for America
Epilepsy Foundation
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
HIV + Hepatitis Policy Institute
Health Care Voices
Healthy Teen Network
Hemophilia Federation of America
Human Rights Campaign
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation

LeadingAge
Legal Action Center
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Medicare Rights Center
MomsRising
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of County Human Services Administrators
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Center for Medical-Legal Partnership
National Community Action Partnership
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Education Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Council
National Health Law Program
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Immigration Law Center
National Interprofessional Initiative on Oral Health
National League for Nursing
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable (NVHR)
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Pediatric Policy Council

Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PlusInc
Prevent Blindness
Primary Care Collaborative
Protect Our Care
SIECUS: Sex Ed for Social Change
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Society for Pediatric Research
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Arc of the United States
The Forum for Youth Investment
The Gerontological Society of America
The Kennedy Forum
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
The National Domestic Violence Hotline
Third Way
Treatment Communities of America
UnidosUS
Union for Reform Judaism
United States of Care
WomenHeart
Young Invincibles

State Organizations

Alabama

Alabama Arise
AIDS Alabama

Arizona

Children's Action Alliance
William E. Morris Institute for Justice

California

Asian Resources, Inc.
BG Nurse Consultants
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation (CRLA Foundation)
California State Association of Counties
County of Los Angeles, California
County Welfare Directors Association of California

Solano County
SEIU2015
The Children's Partnership

Colorado

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Disability Law Colorado
Healthier Colorado

Connecticut

Connecticut Oral Health Initiative
Universal Health Care Foundation of
Connecticut

District of Columbia

Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

Florida

American Children's Campaign
Catalyst Miami
Florida Voices for Health
Floridians for Dental Access

Illinois

AIDS Foundation Chicago
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Illinois Aging Together

Indiana

Covering Kids and Families of Indiana
Hoosier Action

Kansas

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition

Kentucky

Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kentucky Voices for Health

Louisiana

Louisiana Democratic Party Disability Caucus

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Maine

The Bingham Program
Children's Oral Health Network of Maine
Maine Consumers for Affordable Health Care
Maine Equal Justice
Kennebec Valley Family Dentistry

Maryland

AIDS Action Baltimore
Maryland Dental Action Coalition
Maryland Health Care For All! Coalition
Public Justice Center

Massachusetts

Health Care For All Massachusetts
Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute

Michigan

Michigan Council for Maternal and Child Health

Minnesota

Apple Tree Dental

Mississippi

Mississippi Health Advocacy Program

Missouri

Missouri Health Care for All

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed

New Hampshire

ABLE NH

New Jersey

Disability Rights New Jersey
Family Voices NJ
New Jersey Citizen Action
SPAN Parent Advocacy Network

New Mexico

Aspen Copies & Office Supplies
Health Action New Mexico

New York

Black Health Commission
Center for Elder Law & Justice
The Children's Agenda
Medicaid Matters New York
Metro New York Health Care for All
Oral Health Nursing Education and Practice
Program (OHNEP)

North Carolina

Healthcare for all NC
NC Child
NC Medicare 4 All
North Carolina Council of Churches
North Carolina Medicare For All Coalition
Wayne County Democratic Women
4 Positive Choices, Greensboro, NC

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Policy Institute

Pennsylvania

Achieva / Disability Healthcare Initiative
PA Coalition for Oral Health
Pennsylvania Health Law Project

Rhode Island

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition RI

South Carolina

Bleeding Disorders Association of South
Carolina
Family Connection of South Carolina
Healthcare For All - South Carolina
Latino Communications CDC
NAACP South Carolina Conference
SC Christian Action Council
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee

SisterReach
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Justice Center – TJC

Texas

Every Texan
La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Hidalgo
County Texas

Utah

Utah Health Policy Project

Vermont

Vermont Office of the Health Care Advocate
Southern Vermont Area Health Education
Center

Virginia

Allergy & Asthma Network
The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
Virginia Health Catalyst
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Voices for Virginia's Children

Washington

Conscious Talk Radio
Northwest Health Law Advocates

West Virginia

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Wisconsin

IndependenceFirst
Our Lord's UMC

Wyoming

Better Wyoming