



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

April 23, 2019

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Joe Kennedy
House of Representatives
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Brown and Representative Kennedy:

The undersigned member organizations of the Partnership for Medicaid, a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of [organizations representing doctors, health care providers, safety net health plans, counties and labor](#), write to express our support for H.R.1879/S.873, the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act of 2019*. Your leadership will ensure that Americans who need Medicaid and CHIP will have continuous health care coverage, which will help improve the efficiency and continuity of care for tens of millions of individuals on these programs. We look forward to working with you to make this legislation a reality.

Millions of adults and children enroll in Medicaid and CHIP each year only to subsequently lose coverage – despite still being eligible– because of inefficient and cumbersome paperwork and other reporting requirements. In addition, many individuals lose their coverage due to short-term income fluctuations which may create a disincentive for earning higher incomes. These coverage disruptions negatively affect the continuity and effectiveness of health care received, and can seriously impact the health status of these individuals.

Of equal importance is the fact that these interruptions in coverage result in higher avoidable administrative costs for states, providers and health plans. Many hospitals, physicians, other providers, and plans hire workers who spend most or all of their time on eligibility verification and assistance. Streamlining eligibility re-verification requirements would free up significant resources better devoted to the clinical arena.

Your legislation seeks to address this by providing for a 12-month continuous enrollment period, dramatically improving continuity of coverage for enrollees. We also believe that, at a time when states and local agencies are looking for solutions to reduce administrative cost burdens, 12-month continuous enrollment will help to further reduce administrative expenses caused by the cycle of enrollment and disenrollment, or “churning,” in the Medicaid program.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this important piece of legislation. The *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act of 2019* offers a common-sense solution to modernize the



Medicaid and CHIP programs and we are happy to lend our support for this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Easterseals
The Jewish Federations of North America
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Health Care for the Homeless Council

cc:

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United State House of Representatives
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Charles Schumer, Minority Leader, United States Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader, United States House of Representatives
The Honorable Chuck Grassley, Chairman, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Ron Wyden, Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Finance
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce