



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

January 8, 2015

The President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of health care providers, safety net health plans, counties, and labor – is writing to express **our opposition to the repeal of key provisions of the Affordable Care Act through the budget reconciliation legislation recently passed by Congress.**

Millions of people have gained access to coverage and care through the Affordable Care Act, most notably through the expansion of the Medicaid program. This budget reconciliation bill would repeal Medicaid expansion, denying health care coverage to millions of people who face the greatest need. For many patients, loss of coverage could threaten their ability to receive the necessary treatments they need to survive, as they may need to decide between paying for health care costs or the food, transportation, and housing needed to subsist.

The expansion of Medicaid to newly eligible populations has had spillover effects for other people as well. In particular, states that extended Medicaid coverage to more uninsured adults saw nearly double the rate of decline in uninsured children, as compared to states that did not expand Medicaid. This is likely due to a robust “welcome mat” effect, whereby parents enrolled their children when they signed up for newly available coverage. Even states that did not expand Medicaid have experienced some effect in both the children and adult populations. We are concerned that a repeal of the Medicaid expansion will, over time, erode coverage for previously eligible populations, including children, pregnant women, and other traditionally-eligible adults.

Expansion of coverage is also crucial for providers – including those represented by members of the Partnership for Medicaid – with a mission to treat vulnerable and underserved patients. These providers will continue to treat patients, regardless of insurance status, however a reduction in coverage will add to the number of uninsured and increase the amount of uncompensated care that is delivered, compromising the ability of providers to remain financially sustainable and provide high-quality care to all.

While we recognize the continuing need for budget restraint, eliminating provisions that increase access to care for vulnerable patients will have rippling, negative effects on communities across the nation. As such, **we urge you to veto the budget reconciliation legislation, which threatens the integrity of the Medicaid**



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program. Further, we implore Congress to work with stakeholders to find positive ways to both protect the federal budget while preserving access to care for all the nation's people.

Sincerely,

America's Essential Hospitals
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association of Community Affiliated Plans
Easter Seals
Medicaid Health Plans of America
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Centers
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, U.S. Senate Majority Leader
The Honorable Harry Reid, U.S. Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Paul Ryan, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, U.S. House of Representatives Minority Leader