



# THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

June 21, 2017

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

The Honorable John Cornyn  
Majority Whip  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Committee on Finance  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander  
Chairman  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Cornyn, Hatch, and Alexander:

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of organizations representing health care providers, safety net health plans, counties and labor – is concerned that the Senate may soon consider and vote on legislation including a major fundamental restructuring of the Medicaid program without the benefit of public committee consideration. To date, no commitment has been made to hold legislative hearings or markups. **On behalf of the Partnership and the millions of your constituents we collectively serve each year, we respectfully urge you in the strongest possible terms to bring this legislation through an open, transparent, “regular order” process in the Senate.**

The goal of the Partnership is to preserve and improve the Medicaid program so that it better meets the needs of the beneficiaries it serves. Over 70 million people rely on Medicaid to deliver necessary health care services and other related supports and services. Any legislation that makes fundamental changes to the Medicaid program must receive full and careful consideration to ensure we do not undermine the quality of services or access to care for the vulnerable populations that this safety net program has served for over 50 years.

The Partnership and its individual organizations stand ready to provide constructive feedback as the Senate considers legislation. However, the absence of committee hearings or markups in the current process is of great concern. The committee process provides an essential forum for meaningful public stakeholder feedback and allows lawmakers the opportunity to hear from constituents who will be directly affected by any legislation considered by Congress. We strongly urge the Senate to use the established regular order, and specifically, request the Senate to publicly release legislative text, hold legislative hearings in the Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees and mark-up the legislation in both committees of jurisdiction before bringing the bill to the Senate floor.

The Partnership remains committed to preserving a strong Medicaid program and stands ready to work with the Senate to ensure beneficiaries receive the care and coverage they need.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Dental Association  
American Dental Education Association  
American Health Care Association  
America's Essential Hospitals  
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  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Rural Health Association