



October 28, 2022

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Partnership for Medicaid (Partnership), thank you for your continued commitment to the Medicaid program. Our member organizations are eager to collaborate with you to build upon efforts to sustain and strengthen Medicaid.

The Partnership – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net plans, and counties – appreciates initiatives from Congress throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to bolster the Medicaid program and support the health care safety net. Your continued attention has not only allowed the program to meet the needs of millions of Americans during a public health crisis but has also reinforced the importance of investing in Medicaid now to protect and sustain its promise for the future.

As the Congress considers an end-of-year health care package, the Partnership urges lawmakers to prioritize policy proposals to strengthen Medicaid and ensure its stability for underrepresented populations who rely on this critical program. Congress should seek to **include** legislation that would:

- *building on provisions included in the FY 2022 Continuing Resolution*, create a permanent and sustainable Medicaid financing solution for Puerto Rico and other territories;
- permanently ensure that all pregnant individuals on Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) keep their health coverage during the critical first year postpartum;
- provide one year of continuous eligibility for children covered by Medicaid and CHIP;
- appropriately fund the Medicaid program in a manner that supports states to set

competitive rates necessary for garnering equitable access for Medicaid, as undervaluing Medicaid payments—and consequently, the patients Medicaid serves—perpetuates systemic barriers to health and health care and worsens health disparities;

- invest in and improve access to Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS) and mental health services, including for children, while strengthening the direct care workforce;
- provide Medicaid coverage to eligible, justice-involved individuals 30 days prior to release;
- extend the 100 percent federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for Urban Indian Organizations and Native Hawaiian Health Systems for another two years;
- make permanent Medicaid’s Money Follows the Person program and the Protection Against Spousal Impoverishment.
- permanently fund CHIP; and
- close the Medicaid coverage gap for Americans living in states that have yet to expand Medicaid and still lack access to health insurance.

Taken together, these proposed improvements to Medicaid and CHIP represent an opportunity to stabilize and expand access to health care and long-term services and supports for millions of low-income Americans, from older adults, people with disabilities, children, pregnant and postpartum individuals, and their families, and more.

Furthermore, for Medicaid issues legislatively tied to the public health emergency, we urge Congress to proceed with caution when applying imminent, static sunsets to policies stakeholders rely upon to help mitigate COVID-19’s ongoing impact. For example, Congress should create a predictable, evidence-informed wind down of the enhanced FMAP and continuous coverage provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that provides sufficient guardrails to protect beneficiaries while also reflecting the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We remain grateful for your leadership and commitment to the Medicaid program and the populations it serves. If you have questions or seek any additional information, please contact Jonathan Westin at the Jewish Federations of North America, First Co-Chair of the Partnership for Medicaid at Jonathan.Westin@jewishfederations.org.

Sincerely,

America’s Essential Hospitals
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Education Association

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
Associations of Clinicians for the Underserved
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Easterseals
Jewish Federations of North America
National Association of Counties
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics (NARHC)
National Council for Mental Wellbeing
National Council of Urban Indian Health
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Rural Health Association

CC:

The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Mike Crapo, Ranking Member of the Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr., Chair of the House Energy and Commerce Committee
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers, Ranking Member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee