

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