



June 27, 2025

U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the American Public Health Association, a diverse community of public health professionals who champion the health of all people and communities, I write to express our strong opposition to the budget reconciliation legislation currently under consideration in Congress. The proposed provisions developed by several Senate committees, like those included in the House-passed bill, contain significant cuts to programs that are crucial to ensuring the health and wellbeing of millions of Americans across the nation. While Congress is considering this legislation, which will eliminate health coverage for millions of individuals, the administration is also proposing to decimate discretionary spending for critical public health programs and agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health and the Health Resources and Services Administration, among others. These misguided cuts and the proposed reductions in access to care through Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act will leave millions of people without care and strain the public health and health care system beyond repair.

Like the House bill, proposals being discussed in the Senate would eliminate comprehensive and affordable health coverage for millions. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the House-passed bill would eliminate health coverage for at least 16 million individuals, including millions in the Medicaid program and millions more who currently receive coverage and enhanced premium subsidies through the Affordable Care Act's health insurance marketplace. Like the House-passed bill, the draft Senate legislation does not include an extension of the enhanced ACA subsidies set to expire this year. The ACA's Medicaid expansion and other ACA coverage provisions have significantly reduced the uninsured rate from 49 million before the ACA to 26 million today. The proposed reconciliation legislation in both chambers would eliminate access to affordable, quality health care and preventive health services that millions of Americans rely on, taking us backward and making the nation much less healthy.

The draft Senate proposal, like the House bill, would also severely limit access to reproductive health care for Medicaid recipients by making services provided by Planned Parenthood, such as birth control, cancer screenings, and testing for sexually transmitted infections, ineligible for reimbursement.

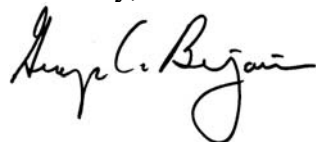
The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would be cut by billions under the proposed Senate plan. In 2024, SNAP served 42 million individuals, and approximately half of SNAP beneficiaries are children. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, millions of individuals would be at risk of either completely losing their benefits or seeing them cut, including parents, children, older adults and veterans. Additionally, like the House bill, the Senate provisions under discussion could shift billions of dollars in SNAP expenses to the states, putting a significant

increased financial burden on the states for a program that has been fully federally funded for nearly five decades.

In addition to the significant cuts to health coverage and food and nutrition security programs, the draft Senate proposal would also roll back important programs to reduce air pollution and combat climate change. Specifically, like the House-passed bill, the Senate proposal would rescind grants offered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency through the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and rescind funding for programs to reduce air pollution near schools and ports, monitor air pollution in communities across the country and reduce diesel emissions, among others. Together, these programs are estimated to significantly reduce air pollution and its negative health impacts across the nation. Repealing them would especially harm the health of the nation's most vulnerable, including those with existing chronic diseases, children, senior citizens, and individuals in low-income communities, who often live near major transportation centers.

Unfortunately, the budget reconciliation legislation under consideration in both chambers would do nothing to improve the nation's health. Instead, it would expand the number of uninsured, increase food insecurity, and increase the toll of air pollution and climate change on our communities. I strongly urge you to oppose any budget reconciliation legislation containing these damaging provisions and instead work in a bipartisan manner to develop legislation that prioritizes improving the nation's health and protecting all individuals from the many health challenges we face.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Georges" and last name "Benjamin" clearly legible.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
Executive Director