



May 21, 2025

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative:

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 H.R. 1, House budget reconciliation legislation. This legislation contains significant cuts to programs that are crucial to ensuring the health and wellbeing of millions of Americans across the nation. We strongly urge members of the House to oppose this ill-conceived legislation. Instead, we encourage Congress to work to develop bipartisan legislation to strengthen the nation's public health system, expand access to affordable health coverage, protect vulnerable populations from air pollution and the health impacts of climate change and reduce food insecurity in our communities.

The House reconciliation bill, in its current form, would eliminate health coverage for at least 13.7 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. This legislation does not include an extension of these critical subsidies which are set to expire this year. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the new Medicaid work reporting requirements and other changes to the ACA included in the bill would lead to 8.6 million individuals losing their health coverage. These numbers paint a devastating picture of preventable suffering. 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 legislation would remove 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 bill also attacks access to reproductive health care for Medicaid recipients. Specifically, the legislation would make services provided by Planned Parenthood, such as birth control, cancer screenings and testing for sexually transmitted infections, ineligible for reimbursement, thus significantly limiting access to these and other important prevention and treatment services.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program would be cut by approximately \$300 billion under the bill. In 2024, SNAP served 42 million individuals and approximately half of SNAP beneficiaries are children. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, nearly 11 million individuals, would be at risk of either completely losing their benefits or seeing them cut, including parents, children, older adults and veterans. Additionally, the bill would 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 bill would also roll back important programs to reduce air pollution and combat climate change. Specifically, the bill 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. The bill would also repeal EPA's final clean vehicle standards and other rules to reduce pollution from the transportation sector. Together these rules and 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 which are often located near major transportation centers.

Unfortunately, this legislation would do nothing to improve the health of the nation. 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 the bill 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 as a nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Georges C. Benjamin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" at the beginning.

Georges C. Benjamin, MD
Executive Director