

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 25, 2018

Dear Leader McConnell, Leader Schumer, Speaker Ryan, and Leader Pelosi:

As leading national, state, and local organizations concerned about the health and well-being of America's families, we are writing to urge you to oppose any new cuts to federal health programs or other essential components of our nation's social safety net. As the new session of the 115th Congress gets underway, our organizations are calling on Congress to protect access to affordable, high-quality and comprehensive health insurance and set aside legislative and budgetary efforts that would reduce health coverage, increase health care costs, or reduce protections for people with pre-existing conditions.

Medicaid, Medicare, and private health insurance, including insurance provided through the health insurance marketplaces, support the health, well-being, and financial security of millions of families across the nation. The evidence is clear that when consumers have a reliable source of high-quality health coverage, they are able to access critical health services, including prevention and behavioral health services; experience better overall health status and improved health outcomes; and are protected against unexpected medical expenses. Cuts or changes to these programs -- including efforts to fundamentally alter the Medicaid financing structure, to weaken benefit arrangements, or to repeal parts of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) -- would jeopardize the health and financial security of people across the country.

We are particularly concerned about any new cuts or changes to the Medicaid program. Medicaid is an essential source of coverage for 74 million people. Medicaid's current state-federal partnership helps states provide quality health insurance to their residents -- it ensures that children are able to get a healthy start in life, provides long-term care to seniors and people with disabilities, and health care to many adults including pregnant people. Efforts to restructure or cut Medicaid would shift health care costs to the states, hurt local economies, and threaten care and coverage for millions.

It is also critical for Congress to protect—and not weaken or undermine— consumers' ability to obtain affordable, comprehensive private health insurance. Consumer protections including Essential Health Benefits are crucial for people with pre-existing conditions. Eliminating or weakening these federal protections jeopardizes the ability of people with serious health conditions to obtain the coverage and care they need. In addition, premium tax credits make

coverage through the marketplaces affordable for millions of Americans and must not be reduced or eliminated.

Today, we call on House and Senate leaders to protect the programs that provide critical health insurance coverage and support. It is time to put aside efforts to undermine the social safety net and reject proposals that risk the health, well-being, and financial security of families across the country.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

Families USA
1,000 Days
2020 Mom
Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics
ADAP Advocacy Association
AFSCME
AIDS United
American Academy of Nursing
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Art Therapy Association
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association of University Women (AAUW)
American Association on Health & Disability
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dance Therapy Association
American Dental Education Association
American Diabetes Association
American Federation of Teachers
American Healthcare Coalition
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Nurses Association
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Public Health Association
American Society of Addiction Medicine
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Black Women's Health Imperative
Center for Black Equity
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for Popular Democracy Action
Center for Public Representation
Center for Reproductive Rights
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
Children's Home Society of America
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Catalyst
Consumers Union
Doctors for America
Every Child Matters
Family Voices
First Focus
FORGE, Inc.
Friends Committee on National Legislation
Futures Without Violence
General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church
Generations United
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Health Care for American Now (HCAN)
HealthHIV
Hep B United
Hepatitis B Foundation
HIV Medicine Association
Human Rights Campaign
International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace, and Agricultural Implement Workers of
America
John Snow, Inc. (JSI)
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
League of Women Voters of the United States
Legal Action Center
Medicare Rights Center
Methodist Federation for Social Action
Metropolitan Community Churches
MomsRising
NAACP
NACBHDD

NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness)
NARMH
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Health Research
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Coalition for LGBT Health
National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Disability Rights Network
National Employment Law Project
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Physicians Alliance
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Oral Health America
Out2Enroll
Pathways for Rare and Orphan Studies
People For the American Way
PFLAG National
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network - USA
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Prince of Peace Pax Christi
Progressive Doctors
Project Inform
Protect Our Care

Public Citizen

Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need

Religious Institute

RESULTS

Ryan White Medical Providers Coalition

School Social Work Association of America

School-Based Health Alliance

Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)

Sisters of Charity of Nazareth Congregational Leadership

Society for Public Health Education

Southeast Asia Resource Action Center

Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative (SASI)

Susan G. Komen

Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc.

The AIDS Institute

The Arc of the United States

The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health

The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law

The Veterans Health Council

TimeBanks USA

Treatment Action Group

UnidosUS

Union for Reform Judaism

Universal Health Care Action Network

UU Womens Federation

Vietnam Veterans of America

Voice for Adoption

Voices for Progress

Young Invincibles

ZERO TO THREE

State Organizations:

Alabama

AIDS Alabama

Alabama Regional Medical Services

Thrive Alabama

Alaska

Alaska Children's Trust

Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation

Arkansas

Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

California

Alzheimer's Greater Los Angeles
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
APLA Health
California Council of Churches IMPACT
California Health Professional Student Alliance
California LGBT Health and Human Services Network
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network (CPEHN)
California Partnership
California Physicians Alliance
Ceres Community Project
Children Now
Children's Defense Fund-CA
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)
Community Health Councils
County Welfare Directors Association of California
Equality California
Executive Healthcare Consulting, LLC
Health Access California
IE-CHI (Inland Empire Coverage and Health Initiative)
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles
Latino Coalition for a Healthy California
Law Foundation of Silicon Valley
Los Angeles LGBT Center
NICOS Chinese Health Coalition
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County
The Greenlining Institute

Colorado

Center for Health Progress
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Oral Health Colorado
Stahlman Disability Consulting, LLC

Connecticut

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Delaware

Delaware HIV Consortium

District of Columbia

Georgetown University Family Medicine
Whitman-Walker Health

Florida

Catalyst Miami
Organize Florida
Outstanding Kids

Georgia

AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta
Georgians for a Healthy Future
Georgia Watch
The Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta

Hawaii

Waikiki Health

Illinois

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
EverThrive Illinois
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois LEND
Open Door Clinic of Greater Elgin
Protect Our Care Illinois

Indiana

Covering Kids & Families of Indiana

Iowa

Monona County Public Health

Kansas

Health Reform Resource Project

Kentucky

Advocacy Action Network
Center for Accessible Living
Community Farm Alliance
Fairview Community Health Center
Friedell Committee for Health Systems Transformation
Kentucky Equal Justice Center
Kentucky Psychological Association

Kentucky Voices for Health
Madison Family Clinic
Mental Health America of Kentucky

Louisiana

LA Supported Living Network

Maine

Consumers for Affordable Health Care

Maryland

Consumer Health First
Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative Education Fund, Inc.

Massachusetts

Personal Disability Consulting, Inc.

Michigan

Community Health Access Coalition
FernCare Free Clinic Board
Methodist Children's Home Society
MichUHCAN

Minnesota

Minnesota AIDS Project

Mississippi

Back Bay Mission
Mississippi Human Services Coalition

Missouri

Empower Missouri
Missouri Health Care for All

Montana

Montana Women Vote

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed Center for Law in the Public Interest

Nevada

Children's Advocacy Alliance (NV)

New Jersey

BlueWaveNJ
New Jersey Appleseed Public Interest Law Center

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and Addiction Agencies
New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey Policy Perspective

New Mexico

Health Action New Mexico
Interfaith Worker Justice - New Mexico
New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty
New Mexico Voices for Children

New York

Amida Care
Bailey House, Inc.
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY
Empire Justice Center
Family Residences and Essential Enterprises
Family Therapy Institute of Suffolk (NY)
Health Care Advocacy
Healthcare Education Project
Housing Works
Metro New York Health Care for All
NAMI Huntington
New York State Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
New York State Nurses Association
New Yorkers for Accessible Health Coverage
Staten Island for Change
Citizen Action of New York

North Carolina

Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC
Equality North Carolina

Ohio

Equitas Health
Universal Health Care Action Network of Ohio

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Policy Institute

Oregon

Oregon Food Bank

Pennsylvania

Amy Requa Health Consulting, Inc.
Consumer Health Coalition
Pennsylvania Council of Churches

Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Public Citizens for Children and Youth
The Health Committee for People with Disabilities
YWCA Greater Pittsburgh

Puerto Rico

Puerto Rico CoNCRA

South Carolina

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

South Dakota

Northeast South Dakota Area Health Education Center (NESD AHEC)

Tennessee

Black Children's Institute of Tennessee
Faith that Heals TN UMC
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

Center for Public Policy Priorities
Centro San Vicente
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Legacy Community Health
Prism Health North Texas
Texans Care for Children

Utah

Voices For Utah Children

Vermont

Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Virginia

Virginia Organizing
Virginia Poverty Law Center

Washington

Foundation for Healthy Generations
Northwest Health Law Advocates

West Virginia

AIDS Task Force of the Upper Ohio Valley
Clay-Battelle Health Services Association
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care
West Virginians Together for Medicaid

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Wisconsin Family Ties

Wisconsin Federation of Nurses & Health Professionals