

December 10, 2020

President-elect Biden and Presidential Transition Co-Chairs:

As leading national, state, local, and tribal nation organizations dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of all in our nation, we want to congratulate you on your election victory. We are grateful for your leadership on health care during the campaign, especially your sharp focus on the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and renewed call for racial justice. While the challenges facing your administration are truly unprecedented, you have an historic opportunity to build on your record of success in protecting and advancing our nation's health to achieve tremendous progress for the American people. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal.

As you set your agenda for the coming year, combating COVID-19 and addressing the pressing health care needs of all our country's individuals and families must be your highest priority. Your work on these issues will be key to turning the tide of the pandemic, restoring our economy, and saving lives. It will also set the course for the health and well-being of every family in America for decades to come. As such, we urge you to prioritize the health care commitments you made during the campaign in the first year of your administration, and that they be central to your first 100 days agenda. Specifically, we urge you to:

Take bold and immediate action to address the COVID-19 pandemic. To protect families' access to care and financial security, to reduce health and economic inequities, and to save jobs and promote economic recovery, we implore you to work with Congress to provide relief from the disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to:

- Ensure all individuals have equitable access to testing and treatment for COVID-19.
- Ensure equitable distribution of any safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19.
- Equip states, territories, counties and other localities with sufficient financial support to combat the crisis and appropriately manage persistent budget shortfalls.
- Provide unfettered access to personal protective equipment and support to the health care workforce and others on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- Strengthen and invest in modernizing the nation's public health systems at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments, to better respond to COVID-19 and ongoing public health threats.
- Bolster access to health coverage and care, while maximizing capacity throughout the health system to treat all patients in need.

End racial injustice in health and health care, and ensure all individuals and families have equal opportunity to live a healthy life, free from health disparities and barriers to care because of who they are, where they live, what language they speak, or how they identify. There is a growing determination in the United States that our nation's tragic history of systemic racism and the resulting inequities in health and health care will no longer be tolerated. To bend the arc of history toward justice in health outcomes we urge you to:

- Establish a White House Office focused on achieving health and racial equity to improve coordination, through a racial equity lens, on core health, environmental, and economic justice issues across major federal agencies.
- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to require that every state, locality, and territory measure and report on health outcomes by race, ethnicity, primary language,

rural/urban location, and disability status, at a minimum; and to realign payment to ensure accountability to end health disparities across health and social services systems.

- Rescind regulatory revisions to section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act that institute an ideologically based re-definition of sex discrimination that excludes discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation and rolls back protections that provide access to interpretation and translation services.

Pursue common-sense reforms that make health coverage and care affordable for all families in America. No parent should be forced to choose between going to the doctor and putting food on the table. No taxpayer should face unaffordable health care costs in retirement despite a lifetime of paying into Medicare. No worker should be forced to stay in an unsafe job just to keep their health care. No immigrant - many of whom have been at the frontlines of this pandemic caring for our loved ones, picking and processing our food, and keeping our economy in motion – should be denied access to care. Among the many steps available to the new administration, we urge you to:

- Ensure health coverage and access to regular medical care for all people, regardless of immigration status, starting with reinstating protections for DACA-eligible residents and rescinding recent harmful regulations that threaten the health and safety of immigrant families, including the “public charge” rule.
- Streamline Medicaid and CHIP eligibility processes to eliminate red-tape barriers to enrolling and maintaining coverage by extending enrollment periods and making enrollment automatic, inclusive, and more stable.
- Make marketplace coverage more affordable, including for people without job-based coverage
- Allow and encourage states to better utilize 1332 and 1115 waivers to improve health coverage options and increase access to a full spectrum of health care services.
- Make meaningful progress toward the goal of enacting comprehensive Medicare coverage for oral health by extending Medicare coverage for “medically necessary oral health care”.

Bring down health care costs and transform our health care system by ending health industry abuses and prioritizing high-quality, consumer-centered health care. Now is the time to address the needs of everyday families over powerful special interests. We urge you to:

- Lower prescription drug costs by working with Congress to make meaningful progress toward allowing the government to negotiate for fair and reasonable Medicare drug prices.
- End surprise medical bills that send people into bankruptcy by banning “balanced billing” practices and providing protections to consumers without increasing costs.
- Enact policies that move our health system towards incentivizing affordable, high-quality services centered on outcomes and value instead of volume of care.

The undersigned organizations are committed to doing everything in our power to help you bring to fruition the health care vision that you articulated with such power on the campaign trail. The health of our nation now requires that you follow through on those commitments with swift and bold action. We stand ready to work with you to advance these and other critical health policies that address the urgent health care needs of America’s families.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Taylor, Senior Director for Federal Relations at Families USA: jtaylor@familiesusa.org, 202-626-0612

Sincerely,

National Organizations

Families USA

ACA Consumer Advocacy

ACCESS

ADAP Advocacy Association

African American Health Alliance

Aging Life Care Association

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

American Association of Suicidology

American Association on Health and Disability

American Geriatrics Society

American Institute of Dental Public Health

American Medical Student Association

American Muslim Health Professionals

American Physical Therapy Association

Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Health and Social Care Integration

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Center for Public Representation

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Health Fund

Children's HealthWatch

Coalition for Hemophilia B

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Access National Network (CANN)

Community Catalyst

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

Different Kind Inc

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office

DPRG Group Llc

Every Mother Counts

Farmworker Justice

First Focus Campaign for Children

FORCE - Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Inc.

Get America Covered

Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice

Global Justice Institute

Health Care Voices

HealthConnect One

HealthHIV

Healthy Schools Campaign

Hemophilia Federation of America

Hispanic Federation
HIV Dental Alliance
H-PPRCT
Human Impact Partners
Human Rights Campaign
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Jon C Burr Foundation
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
Legal Action Center
Little Lobbyists
Long Term Care Community Coalition
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Medicaid | Medicare | CHIP Services Dental Association
Medicare Rights Center
MomsRising
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity
National Coalition on Health Care
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Urban Indian Health
National Dental Association
National Employment Law Project
National Family Support Network
National Health Council
National Immigration Law Center
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Respite Coalition
National Rural Health Association
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Native American Alumni of Harvard University
OCA - Asian American Pacific Advocates
Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network-USA

Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

RESULTS

Santa Fe Group
SEIU
Share Our Strength
Society of State Leaders of Health & Physical Education
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Swipe Out Hunger
The Arc of the United States
The Coalition for Hemophilia B
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation
The Gerontological Society of America
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Assn of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
The National Coalition for LGBT Health
The Well Project
Treatment Action Group
Treatment Communities of America
Triage Cancer
Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Trust for America's Health
Union for Reform Judaism
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation

United States People living with HIV Caucus
United Way Worldwide
Voices for Progress
Young Invincibles

State Organizations

Alabama

AIDS Alabama
Alabama Arise
Community Enabler
Inspire United Appeal Fund

Alaska

Alaska Primary Care Association

Arizona

Asian Pacific Community in Action
Arizona Oral Health Coalition
Child and Family Resources
Children's Action Alliance
Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Unlimited Potential

Arkansas

Community Health Centers of Arkansas
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

California

San Fernando Community Health Center
Westside Family Health Center
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Venice Family Clinic

Orange County United Way

Dientes Community Dental Care

Equality California

CRLA Foundation

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

California Immigrant Policy Center

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates

Oasis Legal Services

California Dental Association

The Children's Partnership

California Health Advocates

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

Health Access California

Partners in Care Foundation

Alianza Sacramento

California Primary Care Association

Colorado

Colorado School Medicaid Consortium

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado Community Health Network

Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Center for Health Progress

Connecticut

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Ministerial Health Fellowship Advisory

National Association of Social Workers, CT
Chapter

District of Columbia

Rebuilding Independence My Style

No Justice No Pride

Mamatoto Village

DC Coalition on Long Term Care

TENAC (D.C. Tenants' Advocacy Coalition)

Empower DC

Bread for the City

Delaware

Christian Council of Delmarva

Westside Family Healthcare

Florida

Florida Policy Institute

Florida Voices for Health

#Impact

Georgia

Benevis Dental Practice Management Services

Not One More Life, Inc.

Georgians for a Healthy Future

Georgia Watch

Hawai'i

Hawaii Public Health Institute

Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Illinois

University YMCA New American Welcome Center

Enlace Chicago

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

EverThrive Illinois

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Heartland Alliance

Protect Our Care Illinois

Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

Legal Council for Health Justice

Iowa

SALUD-Multicultural Health Coalition of Storm Lake

Kansas

Community Care Network of Kansas

Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Oral Health Kansas

Kentucky

McNary Group

Kentucky Voices for Health

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

Louisiana

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Louisiana Primary Care Association

EXCELth, Inc.

Maine

Maine Equal Justice

Maine Primary Care Association

Maryland

Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc.

Neighbors Rising

Elizabeth Cooney Care Network

Public Justice Center

High Note Consulting, LLC

United Seniors of Maryland

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Maryland Chapter

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

Maryland Dental Action Coalition

Massachusetts

Health Care For All - Massachusetts

Rosie's Place

R2H Action [Right to Health]

Michigan

Detroit Community Health Connection

Community Housing Network, Inc.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit

Michigan League for Public Policy

United Health Organization

Minnesota

Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers

Minnesota Oral Health Coalition

TakeAction Minnesota

West Central Initiative

Mississippi

Mississippi Center for Justice

Missouri

Missouri Health Care For All

Missouri Budget Project

Montana

Montana Women Vote

Nebraska

Nebraska Appleseed

Nevada

Silver State Equality-Nevada

Immunize Nevada

New Jersey

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and
Addiction Agencies

Family Voices NJ

New Jersey Citizen Action

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

New Mexico

coasap

HealthCare Not Warfare Action Team, Central
New Mexico Chapter of PDA

NM Center on Law and Poverty

New York

Project Accessible Oral Health

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

African Services Committee

Metro New York Health Care for All

Saratoga Immigration Coalition

New York Immigration Coalition

Community Health Care Association of New York
State

New York State Oral Health Coalition

New Hampshire

Easterseals NH, VT, ME and Farnum

North Carolina

Pisgah Legal Services

Equality North Carolina

North Carolina Asian Americans Together

NC Child

North Carolina Justice Center

Ohio

Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational
Fund

Oral Health Ohio

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers

Ohio Council of Churches

Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Policy Institute

Oregon

National Crittenton

Pennsylvania

Maternity Care Coalition

Women's Law Project

Pennsylvania Health Access Network

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

PA Coalition for Oral Health

Rhode Island

Lighthouse Community Development Corp

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition RI

SISTA Fire

South Carolina

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

Tennessee

A VOICE for the Reduction of Poverty in Nashville and Beyond

Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable

Tennessee Health Care Campaign

Tennessee Justice Center

Texas

Children's Defense Fund - Texas

Every Texan (formerly CPPP)

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas

La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

Reflection International Ministries

Texas Council on Family Violence

Utah

Association for Utah Community Health

Senior Charity Care Foundation

Voices for Utah Children

Utah Health Policy Project

Vermont

Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Virginia

Virginia Organizing

Social Action Linking Together (SALT)

Virginia Health Catalyst

Virginia Poverty Law Center

Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations

The National Korean American Service and Education Consortium - Virginia (NAKASEC VA)

Washington

International Community Health Services

Northwest Health Law Advocates

Toppenish Community Chest

Bermuda Associates LLC

Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation (SYL Foundation)

West Virginia

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Wisconsin

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Wyoming

Wyoming Community Foundation