



December 10, 2024

The Honorable Jodey Arrington
U.S. House of Representatives
204 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brendan Boyle
U.S. House of Representatives
507 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
U.S. Senate
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Congressman Arrington, Congressman Boyle, Senator Grassley and Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of the millions of patients and consumers across the country who face serious, acute, and chronic health conditions, our organizations urge you to protect Medicaid next year, including as part of any budget reconciliation process. Any efforts to cut Medicaid, including through restructuring Medicaid's current financing, making other federal funding cuts that shift costs to states, reducing eligibility or benefits, or adding barriers to coverage, would severely harm the people we represent and must be rejected.

In March 2017, our organizations agreed upon three overarching principles¹ to guide any work to reform and improve the nation's healthcare system. These principles state that: (1) healthcare should be

accessible, meaning that coverage should be easy to understand and not pose a barrier to care; (2) healthcare should be affordable, enabling patients to access the treatments they need to live healthy and productive lives; and (3) healthcare must be adequate, meaning healthcare coverage should cover treatments patients need.

Our organizations are deeply concerned by policy proposals and comments in the media about plans to make severe cuts to the Medicaid program, including through the budget reconciliation process. Medicaid provides quality, affordable healthcare coverage for about 80 million people across the country,² including low-income children and adults, pregnant individuals, people with disabilities, and seniors. Medicaid should not be used to pay for other legislative priorities.

Any changes to Medicaid's financing structure (including but not limited to block grants and per capita caps), other policies that shift costs to states like cuts to the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP), cuts to eligibility and benefits, and the addition of any barriers to coverage like work reporting requirements and other policies that add red tape to enrollment would lead to coverage losses that severely harm many individuals fighting serious and chronic health conditions. For example, under Georgia's work reporting requirement, just two percent of people in the coverage gap have been able to access coverage.³ It is essential that you protect patients by supporting the Medicaid program and its ability to provide quality, affordable care to tens of millions of people across the United States.

Our organizations once again urge you to reject any cuts to the Medicaid program, including as part of any budget reconciliation process. Please contact Katie Berge (Katie.Berge@lls.org), Jelani Murrain (Jelani.Murrain@cancer.org), and Ashleigh Tharp (atharp@cff.org) if you have questions or would like to meet with members of the Partnership. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alpha-1 Foundation
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Family Voices
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Lupus Foundation of America

Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Bleeding Disorders Foundation
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
WomenHeart

cc: House and Senate Leadership, Chairs and Ranking Members of E&C and Finance

¹ Consensus Health Reform Principles. Available at: [Partnership to Protect Coverage | Patient Advocacy | Consensus Healthcare Reform Principles](#).

² [Who Is Covered by Medicaid? - Medicaid 101 | KFF](#)

³ [Georgia's Much Vaunted Medicaid Waiver "Pathways to Coverage" Has Turned Into "Pathways to Profit" for Consultants – Center For Children and Families](#)