



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

April 1, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of the Partnership for Medicaid, we urge you to address an urgent issue in the Medicaid program—the potential loss of coverage for millions of beneficiaries at the end of the federal public health emergency (PHE). While we believe ending the PHE would be premature at this time, we are writing to ensure the unwinding is handled in a prudent manner that will minimize unintended consequences. The Partnership—a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net plans, and counties—has supported many of the federal initiatives that protected the Medicaid program and its beneficiaries during these last two years of the pandemic.

As policymakers have conversations about the timing of the end of the PHE, we strongly urge you to create a predictable, transparent and evidence-informed wind down of the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) and continuous coverage provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) that provides sufficient guardrails to protect beneficiaries while also reflecting the trajectory of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Specifically, we ask that Congress provide at least a 120-day lead time before unwinding the FMAP and Maintenance of Effort provisions of the FFCRA. This will allow state Medicaid agencies sufficient time to transition plan and ensure enrollees have time to re-establish their Medicaid eligibility or transition to subsidized coverage in the Affordable Care Act Marketplaces. The recent story titled, [*Millions of vulnerable Americans likely to fall off Medicaid once the federal public health emergency ends*](#) from the Washington Post, published on March 14, 2022, illustrates why these Congressional safeguards are needed to prevent as many as 16 million low-income Americans, millions of whom are children, from losing their vital coverage.

We are encouraged by the [*recent guidance*](#) issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) aimed at how states can initiate Medicaid eligibility redeterminations after the PHE. This guidance outlines several flexibilities and strategies that states can use to protect

beneficiaries during the unwinding period. We encourage Congress to institute additional protections to prevent massive coverage loss.

We also ask that any savings realized from any unwinding legislation be reinvested into the Medicaid program to strengthen it for beneficiaries. The Partnership has outlined several of these priorities in a [recent letter](#) and include initiatives to close the coverage gap, provide for continuous eligibility for children, invest in home- and community based services (HCBS), ensure adequate and equitable payment rates for Medicaid providers, provide sustainable Medicaid financing solutions for the U.S. territories, address health disparities and expand postpartum care for mothers and babies in all states.

Our coalition encourages you to advance these important Medicaid policies through any legislative pathway this year. We remain grateful for your leadership and commitment to the Medicaid program and the populations it serves. If you have questions or seek any additional information, please contact Jonathan Westin at the Jewish Federations of North America, First Co-Chair of the Partnership for Medicaid at Jonathan.Westin@jewishfederations.org. We look forward to working with you to protect coverage for the millions of Medicaid beneficiaries we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Health Care Association
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
America's Essential Hospitals
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
The Jewish Federations of North America
Medicaid Health Plans of America
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association

CC: Senate Finance Committee
House Energy and Commerce Committee