



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

February 5, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net plans, and counties – appreciates Congress' continued support of the health care safety net and commitment to providing much-needed relief to the populations our members represent and serve. As lawmakers pursue additional legislation to address the continued challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Partnership encourages including critical priorities to strengthen the Medicaid program. **Specifically, the Partnership urges Congress to increase the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid by at least 5.8 percentage points. This would create a minimum 12 percentage point FMAP increase when combined with the FMAP increase provided in the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*.**

A 12 percentage point FMAP increase is consistent with previous requests from the bipartisan National Governors' Association, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, and the National Association of State Budget Officers. Further, the House-passed HEROES Act from last Congress included a one-year 14 percentage point increase.

Enhancing FMAP is critical to ensure that the more than 77 million Medicaid beneficiaries nationwide continue to have access to care during the nation's ongoing public health emergency and current economic downturn. Data from the Kaiser Family Foundation indicates that Medicaid enrollment has grown by more than six million individuals since February 2020,¹ cementing Medicaid as an indispensable lifeline during the pandemic and substantiating the need to further bolster the program. The scope and duration of the dual health and economic crises validates the need for an additional FMAP increase above what has been provided in law to date. Additional support would enable states to leverage Medicaid's role in COVID-19 testing, treatment, and vaccination, particularly as it relates to education and outreach for this population, as new variants and other challenges continue to threaten our national response to the pandemic.

The Partnership for Medicaid looks forward to working with Congress to preserve and strengthen the Medicaid program through this uncertain time and support its vital role as a

¹ Corallo B, Rudowitz R. *Analysis of Recent National Trends in Medicaid and CHIP Enrollment*. Kaiser Family Foundation. January 2021. <https://www.kff.org/coronavirus-covid-19/issue-brief/analysis-of-recent-national-trends-in-medicaid-and-chip-enrollment/>. Accessed February 5, 2021.

safety net for millions of Americans. 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 or partnershipformedicaid@gmail.com.

Thank you for your attention to this request and for your diligent stewardship of the Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
America's Essential Hospitals
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Children's Hospital Association
Easterseals
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 Hispanic Medical Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
The Catholic Health Association of the United States