

September 30, 2020

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi,

On behalf of the Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA), the only national trade association with a sole focus on Medicaid, representing 100+ Medicaid managed care organizations (MCOs) serving more than 25 million Medicaid beneficiaries in 38 states, I write to thank you for keeping at the forefront the severe health care and economic issues that continue to plague our country due to the coronavirus pandemic. In particular, our health plan members and I thank you for proposing to boost the enhanced Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) increase to 14% from October 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021. This increase is essential to stabilizing state budgets and Medicaid programs for the more than 70 million beneficiaries that are served by Medicaid.

Consistent with the [more than a half dozen letters MHPA has sent individually and in coalition](#) with other groups over the past 6 months, we continue to echo the urgent calls from Governors, state Medicaid directors, state budget officers, mayors and other state and local health officials, along with more than 100 health care provider and consumer-oriented organizations in calling for a long-term FMAP increase of at least 12 percent through September 2021. Since the pandemic began, [Medicaid enrollment has increased](#), and continued growth in enrollment is expected over the coming months because of the pandemic and the related economic downturn. The growing reliance on state Medicaid programs coincides with unprecedented state budget pressures that experts predict will be worse than the Great Recession. States are facing deep budget cuts which will have severe impacts on Medicaid agencies, providers, and beneficiaries that rely on the program for high quality coverage and care. MHPA's members are already seeing states propose unsustainable rate cuts and harmful risk corridors, which threaten the continued viability of state-Medicaid managed care partnerships. States are cutting provider rates and scaling back optional benefits, such as dental coverage. To minimize severe cuts to state Medicaid budgets, and to avoid disruptions in care and services for beneficiaries at a critical time for our country, Congress must provide additional federal funding for Medicaid as soon as possible.

Thank you for once again prioritizing additional Medicaid funding in your COVID stimulus legislation. MHPA looks forward to continuing to work with Congressional leaders to ensure the Medicaid program and the enrollees it serves remain a top priority. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly at (202) 857-5771 or to Shannon Attanasio, Vice President, Government Relations and Advocacy at (202) 857-5723 or sattanasio@mhcpa.org.

Sincerely,



Craig A. Kennedy, MPH
President and CEO