



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

May 12, 2022

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chair
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Wyden, Ranking Member Crapo, Chair Pallone, and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The Partnership for Medicaid—a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net plans, and counties—is grateful for lawmakers’ commitment to prevent loss of Medicaid coverage for millions of beneficiaries at the end of the COVID-19 public health emergency (PHE). We remain eager to work with you to protect vital Medicaid coverage and mitigate any unintended consequences that could arise from the eventual wind down of the enhanced federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) and Maintenance of Effort (MoE) provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), which are currently tied to the PHE.

Our coalition continues to support a predictable, transparent, and evidence-informed off-ramp—with at least 120-days advance notice—from the FFCRA’s enhanced FMAP and MoE requirements, incorporating sufficient guardrails to protect beneficiaries.

While this will help Medicaid beneficiaries, plans, and providers prepare, Congress has a unique opportunity to mitigate mass disenrollment by providing continuous coverage options for vulnerable Medicaid populations and should do more to prevent mass coverage loss upon conclusion of the PHE. We therefore encourage lawmakers to swiftly consider and pass legislation to protect Medicaid coverage for key populations. Specifically, Congress should:

- permanently ensure that all pregnant individuals on Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) retain their health coverage during the critical first year postpartum;
- provide one year of continuous eligibility for children covered by Medicaid and CHIP;
- provide Medicaid coverage to eligible, justice-involved individuals 30 days prior to release;
- permanently authorize CHIP; and

- close the Medicaid coverage gap for Americans residing in states that have yet to expand Medicaid and still lack access to health insurance.

The Partnership for Medicaid has advocated for these important policies throughout the pandemic. Continuous coverage requirements, coupled with an adequate glidepath off the enhanced FMAP and MoE provisions, could stabilize Medicaid coverage for millions of Americans while also allowing Medicaid stakeholders to calibrate to a shifting health care landscape as we enter the next phase of the COVID-19 pandemic. Enacting these policies would help relieve administrative burden for entities involved in processing eligibility and enrollment during a precarious time. Importantly, these provisions will also provide peace of mind to millions of beneficiaries who will be able maintain high-quality coverage and the security that comes with it.

Our coalition encourages you to advance these important Medicaid continuous coverage policies through any legislative pathway this year. 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 remain grateful for your leadership and commitment to the Medicaid program and the populations it serves. We look forward to working with you to protect Medicaid coverage and thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists
American Dental Education Association
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
Easterseals
The Jewish Federations of North America
Medicaid Health Plans of America
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Rural Health Association