



October 12, 2021

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Schumer:

As organizations that represent millions of patients and consumers who face serious, acute and chronic health conditions, we urge you to enact permanent policies that expand access to quality and affordable healthcare in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget reconciliation process.

Specifically, we ask that you act swiftly to permanently close the Medicaid coverage gap and make the enhanced advance premium tax credits (APTCs) permanent in the Fiscal Year 2022 budget reconciliation process.

Medicaid is a vitally important program for the patients and individuals we represent. Individuals who fall in the Medicaid coverage gap in the 12 remaining non-expansion states are among the poorest in America and disproportionately represent communities of color. Expansion incentives included in the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) continue to play a dynamic role in states that are actively exploring expanding. **It is therefore critical that Congress retain these incentives as you explore alternative coverage gap solutions.**

For those states that are unlikely to expand, however, it is imperative that the federal government take steps to provide permanent coverage that ensures the full benefits and cost-sharing protections typically offered in Medicaid. Our organizations urge that the solution to close the Medicaid coverage gap be *permanent*, in order to ensure that patients' access to quality and affordable coverage not be jeopardized in the future. **We also ask that the reconciliation package include provisions that ensure that states that have already expanded maintain that coverage.**

Our organizations ask that Congress permanently extend the expansion of APTCs included in the American Rescue Plan Act. During the 2021 special enrollment period created in response to the COVID pandemic, 2.8 million Americans enrolled in health insurance coverage. Those who were newly enrolled or returning customers after ARPA implementation saved an average of 50% in premiums and nearly half of healthcare.gov customers with a new plan selection were able to select plans for \$10 or less per month. Making the expansion of APTCs permanent will significantly ease the cost burden for people who rely on the individual marketplace for coverage and will provide families peace of mind about the cost of their premiums.

Congress has an unprecedented opportunity to expand access to high-quality and affordable coverage, and we urge you to seize it. All individuals, regardless of where they live, deserve access to quality and affordable insurance coverage that they can count on now and in the years to come. **Making these provisions temporary, particularly for only a handful of years, could ultimately pose a threat to future access to care and patients' well-being.** Our organizations stand ready to assist in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

The AIDS Institute
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
ALS Association
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Liver Foundation
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Cancer Support Community

CancerCare
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Hemophilia Federation of America
JDRF
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
Susan G. Komen
United Way Worldwide
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease

Cc: The Honorable Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Richard Neal, Chairman, House Committee on Ways and Means
The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce