

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Chairman
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

Re: Statement for the Record in Support of Lung Health Provisions in the Build Back Better Act

Dear Chairman Pallone and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

The American Lung Association is pleased to support the Build Back Better Act because of its many investments in lung health. The American Lung Association is the leading organization working to save lives by improving lung health and preventing lung disease through education, advocacy and research. In 2019, lung disease was the fourth leading cause of death in the United States, and lung cancer is the leading cancer killer among men and women.

Public Health and Healthcare Provisions

The American Lung Association is grateful to see the inclusion of key investments that will expand access to care for patients with lung disease and strengthen our nation's public health system, including:

- The creation of a federal Medicaid program to provide quality, affordable coverage to individuals in states that have not expanded their Medicaid programs. During the transition to this program, individuals will be able to gain coverage through marketplace plans, with key wraparound services and cost-sharing protections. It is critical that a federal Medicaid program to close the coverage gap be permanent to ensure patients' access to care is not put in jeopardy in the future.
- Expanding Medicaid coverage for pregnant woman from 60 days to 12 months postpartum. This policy will improve access to care, help patients better manage serious and chronic health conditions and reduce negative maternal outcomes that disproportionately affect women of color.
- Providing 12 months of continuous eligibility for children in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, helping to reduce the administrative burden on states and prevent gaps in coverage.
- Investing in public health infrastructure activities, including disease surveillance, testing capacity and health information systems.
- The capping of prescription drug costs for seniors in the Medicare Part D program, including allowing patients to reallocate their cost-sharing more evenly throughout the plan year. We greatly appreciate the Committee including the lower cap amount. As this legislation moves forward, we look forward to working with you to modify the smoothing language to ensure Congress ends prohibitive out-of-pocket costs for all enrollees.

Public Health and Healthy Air Provisions

The American Lung Association is pleased that the Committee is recognizing the important opportunity to make bold investments in programs that protect health from the threat of climate change, including:

- The creation of a Clean Electricity Performance Program, which will help accelerate the transition to clean, renewable energy and reduce emissions. We encourage the Committee to prioritize non-combustion renewable energy sources, which would further protect health from air pollution.
- Increases in funding to put the nation on a path to a zero-emission transportation sector. The transportation sector is the largest carbon emitter and a leading contributor to air pollution. Funding for electric vehicles – including medium- and heavy-duty – and the necessary charging infrastructure is a smart investment towards a healthier future.
- The establishment of a methane fee, paired with strong federal standards on oil and gas emissions, which can help reduce the emissions of one of the most potent greenhouse gases that is fueling

climate change. Concurrently with this proposal, we urge the Committee to maintain the authority that the Environmental Protection Agency has to regulate methane emissions and enforce standards.

- The inclusion of funding to increase and improve the nation's air quality monitoring network. Air quality monitors are vital to the efforts to reduce air pollution and we appreciate the focus on monitoring the levels of fenceline communities and low-income and disadvantaged communities.
- The commitment to environmental justice and the focus on community-led projects. This is a step forward towards righting the injustices of the past, recognizing much more needs to be done. Throughout the investments outlined, we ask the Committee to follow the Justice40 Initiative and ensure that 40% of the investments in clean energy and clean air go towards underserved communities.

The American Lung Association thanks the Committee for its thoughtful consideration of these key public health priorities. Please contact Melanie Buzzelli (Melanie.Buzzelli@Lung.org) regarding the public health and healthcare provisions and Liz Scott (Liz.Scott@Lung.org) for any further information.

Thank you.

Cc: House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce

