



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