



Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chair Wyden, Chair Sanders, Chair Murray, Senator Durbin, Senator Stabenow, Senator Warner, Senator Warren, Speaker Pelosi, Chair Pallone, Chair Neal, Representative Hoyer, and Representative Clyburn:

As organizations that are committed to advancing health and racial justice from the 12 states that have not expanded Medicaid, we are writing to thank you for your leadership in committing to fix the Medicaid “coverage gap” in the FY2022 Budget Resolution. With over 2.2 million uninsured people in the coverage gap across our states – the majority of whom are people of color – **it is a moral and economic imperative that Congress approves a comprehensive and permanent fix to the Medicaid coverage gap in the “Build Back Better” reconciliation bill.**

Since the 2012 Supreme Court decision *NFIB v. Sebelius*, which made the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion a state option, policymakers in our states have refused to expand despite support from a majority of our residents and overwhelming evidence that it leads to significant improvements in coverage, health outcomes, and financial security. Medicaid expansion has also been a central strategy for narrowing long-standing racial disparities in coverage and access to care.¹

We thank you for including a substantial new financial incentive for holdout states to adopt Medicaid expansion in the American Rescue Plan Act. This incentive is enough to cover each of our states’ shares of expansion costs for at least three years, according to Manatt Health researchers.² And yet, it is not enough to overcome purely political opposition from policymakers in our states, with no additional states adopting Medicaid expansion since the passage of the ARP in March.

Our organizations and our partners have worked tirelessly since 2012 to convince state policymakers to expand Medicaid, but the reality remains that our states are unlikely to expand coverage without federal action anytime soon. **People in our states—most of whom are people of color—are being denied basic, life-saving coverage, and the dignity and benefits that come with it. These are benefits that Americans in 38 other states enjoy, and ones that Congress fully intended for people in every state to obtain when it included Medicaid expansion in the ACA.**

As you begin drafting the Build Back Better reconciliation bill, we urge you to ensure it includes a coverage gap policy solution that is **comprehensive** and **permanent**. This is why these principles are so essential to our organizations and communities:

¹ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-expansion-frequently-asked-questions>

² <https://www.manatt.com/insights/newsletters/covid-19-update/assessing-the-fiscal-impact-of-medicaid-expansion>

- **Comprehensive:** We support a policy that expands coverage to Americans regardless of the zip code or state they live in. Only in this way can we deliver health care coverage to low-income residents and communities of color across our states without interference from state leaders. It also ensures coverage across the board, promoting regional equity rather than limiting coverage to residents of specific counties or localities with more healthcare resources or tax revenues. A comprehensive direct coverage option allows us to shift our work away from fighting state leaders, and towards enrolling eligible individuals immediately, many of whom have been waiting a full decade for affordable coverage.
- **Permanent:** Our residents deserve to know they will continue to have access to affordable health coverage not just today, but tomorrow. For this policy to be successful, we need to deliver coverage for this population for the long term, ideally through permanent law, or failing that, for at least 10 years. Our nation, our communities, and our health care providers need this timeline for political pressures to subside, so that the new coverage option can be fully realized and stabilized. We know from experience that debates around the coverage gap are more often about politics than policy, and we don't want our residents to lose basic, life-saving benefits with the next election cycle.

The Build Back Better reconciliation bill is an historic opportunity to make transformative changes ranging from nutrition to energy, from child care to health care. With this bill, our nation can finally realize the original intent of the ACA: to extend affordable and comprehensive health coverage to all Americans, no matter where we live. Closing the Medicaid coverage gap is the centerpiece of that vision. It is the policy improvement that will do the most to lower our nation's uninsured rate while making meaningful and necessary progress to address racial disparities in health care.

We are grateful for your leadership on this bill and are eager to work with you and your colleagues over the coming months to make this promise a reality.

Sincerely,

#IMPACT

9to5

A VOICE for the Reduction of Poverty in Nashville and Beyond

ACLU of Mississippi

Action NC

ADAPT of Texas

Advocates for Responsible Care (ARxC)

AIDS Alabama

Alabama Arise

Alabama Black Women's Roundtable

Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice

Alabama Faith Council

Alabama Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival

Alachua County Labor Coalition

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

Atlanta Nurse Practitioners

Autism Society of Texas

Baynes Dunning Consulting, LLC

Beaches Activists Movement, Atlantic Beach
Better Wyoming
Black Voters Matter Fund
Broward for Progress
CARDBoard Project
Carolina Jews for Justice
Catalyst Miami
Center for Civic & Public Policy Improvement
Center for Research on Aging and Disability Options
Central Florida District CMEC
Central Florida Jobs With Justice
Central Florida LCLAA
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Children's Defense Fund Southern Regional Office
Children's Services Council of Broward County
Church & Society, Anniston First United Methodist Church
Church Women United Chapel Hill-Carrboro Unit
Church Women United Raleigh-Wake Unit
CitySquare
Coalition for Health Care of NC
Coalition of Community Organizations
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
COFA Alliance National Network-Texas (CANN-T)
Community Education Group
Community Enabler Developer, Inc.
Concerned Citizens of Texas
Cover Texas Now
Deborah Snow
Democratic Disability Caucus of Florida
Dillon Joyce Ltd
DJDI
Doctors Fighting Covid, LLC
Doctors For America
Doctors For America Texas Chapter
Doctors for Change
Down Home NC
East Texas Human Needs Network
Enroll the Region
Equality State Policy Center
Every Texan
Faith In Florida
Family to Family Network
Farmworker's Self-Help
Feeding Texas
Florida Black Women's Roundtable
Florida Center for Fiscal & Economic Policy
Florida Council of Churches
Florida Health Justice Project
Florida Immigrant Coalition
Florida Mental Health Advocacy Coalition
Florida People's Advocacy Center

Florida Policy Institute
Florida Rising
Florida Voices for Health
Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center
Georgia Watch
Georgians for a Healthy Future
gloATL
Good Life Outcomes program, at Change Happens!
Greater Birmingham Ministries
Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce
Green Careers Dallas
Healthcare For All - South Carolina
Healthy Wyoming
Hispanic Services Council, Inc.
Houston Coalition Against Hate
Indivisible Chatham
Indivisible District 12 Statesboro
Indivisible GA 04
Indivisible GA 6th
Indivisible Georgia Coalition
Indivisible Marching Buddies of Atlanta
International Valley Health Institute
Islamic Center Of Orlando
Jacksonville Urban League Center for Advocacy and Social Justice
Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Democratic Women's Salon
JFS Houston
Kansas Action for Children
Kansas Appleseed Center for Law and Justice, Inc.
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Kansas Health Foundation
Kansas Interfaith Action
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center
League of Women Voters of Alabama
Legal Action Center
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Medical Advocacy & Outreach
Mercy Care
Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.
Mi Familia Vota
Miami Workers Center
Mississippi Center for Justice
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program
Mississippi Human Services Coalition
MomsRising
Monroe Assoc for Remarkable Citizens
NAACP
NAMI Georgia
NAMI Kansas
NAMI Mississippi
NAMI South Carolina

NAMI Tennessee
NAMI Wisconsin, Inc
NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina
Nashville Health Disparities Coalition
Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable
National Alliance on Mental Illness - North Carolina
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, Georgia Chapter
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
National Association of Social Workers-Mississippi Chapter
NC Alliance for Retired Americans
NC Poor People's Campaign
New Hope Housing
North Carolina AIDS Action Network
North Carolina Justice Center
North Florida Educational Development Corporation
Nurture the Next
Oasis Center
Opportunity For All Floridians
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas (PACT)
PolicyRx
Private Citizen
Progress Florida
Proyecto Azteca
SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Shepherd's Hope
SickOfItTX Campaign
Sisters of Charity Foundation of SC
South Carolina Small Business Chamber of Commerce
Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative, Mississippi
Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice (SRBWI)
Southerners for Medicaid Expansion Coalition
SOWEGA RISING
SPLC Action Fund
Stacey D. Brown Coaching and Consulting
Step Up Savannah
Stephen F. Austin Community Health Center
Susan G. Komen
Tennessee Disability Coalition
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Hemophilia & Bleeding Disorders Foundation
Tennessee Justice Center
Tennessee Mental Health Consumers' Association
Texans Care for Children
Texas Association of Community Health Plans
Texas Data Quality Coalition
Texas Organizing Project
TexProtects
The Afiya Center
The Arc of Alabama
The Healing Trust

The Jolley Foundation
The Knights & Orchids Society
The New Georgia Project Action Fund
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina
UNITE HERE Local 737
United Way of Greenville County
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas
United Way of Southern Cameron County
United Ways of Texas
WayFair
Wellness Pointe
Wyoming Community Foundation
Wyoming Equality
Young Invincibles
Zonta Club of Birmingham