

Dear Majority Leader Schumer,

We, the Southerners for Medicaid Expansion coalition, urge you to ensure any final agreement on an economic reconciliation package includes a provision to close the Medicaid coverage gap. We are joined by hundreds of health equity organizations across the country from states that have not expanded Medicaid.

**A few million of our nation's poorest and sickest Americans have no other pathway to affordable health care, and they need Congress to act now. Most of them are Black, Latino, Indigenous, Asian American, and Pacific Islanders. Closing the Medicaid coverage gap is a necessary, moral imperative to fulfill the promise of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and address racial equity in our health system.**

The stakes are enormous. People in the coverage gap are dying from treatable illnesses. Black mothers and Black babies are dying. Many more are rationing their medication, delaying care, and getting by with devastating impacts to the length and quality of their lives. It's no coincidence that the regions in our nation with the greatest racial disparities in maternal mortality, the highest rates of medical debt, and the lowest life expectancy are all located in non-expansion states.

We appreciate your tenacious work [championing](#) the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and fighting to “establish affordable healthcare as a basic right of every American.” At its core, the ACA promised that no matter who we are, how much we make, or where we live, every American deserves access to health care coverage. But due to *NFIB v. Sebelius* and states’ politically entrenched refusal to expand Medicaid, the ACA has failed to deliver this promise for millions of mostly Black and brown Americans in the coverage gap.

Two years ago, when you introduced the Economic Justice Act—a bill intended to underscore our nation’s commitment to tackling systemic racism—[you said](#), “Long before the pandemic, long before this recession, long before [2020’s] protests, structural inequalities have persisted in health care and housing, the economy and education...We must confront them with lasting, meaningful solutions that tear down economic and social barriers, and reinvest in historically underserved communities.”

There are few solutions more lasting and meaningful in our healthcare system today than closing the Medicaid coverage gap. Congress must finish the work of the ACA and take this resounding step towards racial justice.

Now is the time. We will not have another chance for years to come to correct this profound injustice in the design of our healthcare system. Closing the Medicaid coverage gap is key to your stated goal of promoting economic and racial justice. We need your leadership, and we need it now.

We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to deliver on the promise of the ACA and invite further conversation on this issue.

Sincerely,

9to5 Georgia

A Voice for the Reduction of Poverty Coalition

Action NC

African American Clergy Collective of TN

AIDS Alabama South

Alabama Arise

Alabama Black Women's Roundtable

Alabama Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

Alabama Harm Reduction Coalition

Alabama Primary Health Care Association

Alabama Rare

Alabama State Nurses Association

Allegany Franciscan Ministries

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Alabama

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Georgia

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network Kansas

Autism Society of Texas

Birmingham AIDS Outreach

BirthWell Partners Community Doula Project

Black Children's Institute of Tennessee

Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis

Black Voters Matter Fund

Broward for Progress

Cairn Health, Inc.

Carolina Jews for Justice

Catalyst Miami  
Center for Black Women's Wellness  
Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement  
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy  
Children First Alabama  
Children's Defense Fund-Texas  
Children's Services Council of Broward County  
Church & Society, Anniston First United Methodist Church  
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
Collaborative Solutions  
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama  
Community Health & Wellness Center Inc.  
Community Partners Linked Network  
Cover Texas Now  
COVID Survivors for Change  
Democratic Disability Caucus of Florida  
Down Syndrome Association of Middle TN  
East Texas Human Needs Network  
El Centro Hispano  
Equality State Policy Center  
Every Texan  
Faith in Action Alabama  
Faith Voices for Medicaid Expansion - Kansas  
Family to Family Network  
Feeding Texas  
Florida Health Justice Project  
Florida Policy Institute  
Florida Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-FL)  
Florida Voices for Health  
Ford County Breastfeeding Coalition  
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  
Georgia Chapter, Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP)  
Georgia Equality  
Georgia Interfaith Public Policy Center  
Georgia Watch  
Georgians for a Healthy Future  
Good Life Outcomes, at Change Happens!  
Grace United Methodist Church

Greater Chattanooga Democratic Women's Club  
Haitian Neighborhood Center,Sant La Inc.  
Health Care Justice--NC  
Health Students Taking Action Together  
Healthy Futures of Texas  
Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia  
Hemophilia Of Georgia  
Houston Area Women's Center  
Humanity House  
IATSE Local 31  
Indivisible Georgia Coalition  
Jewish Community Relations Council  
Jewish Democratic Women"s Salon of Atlanta  
Johnson County NAACP  
Jolt Action  
Kansas Action for Children  
Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition  
Kansas Interfaith Action  
La Fe Policy Research and Education Center  
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
League of Women Voters of Florida  
League of Women Voters of Tennessee  
Leland Southern Rural Black Women Initiative Human Rights Commission  
Longview Wellness Center, Inc.,Wellness Pointe  
Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama  
Medical Advocacy & Outreach Alabama  
Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas  
Mid South Liver Alliance  
Mississippi Black Women’s Roundtable  
Mississippi Center forJustice  
Mississippi Health Advocacy Program  
Mississippi Human Services Coalition  
Mississippi Kidney Foundation  
Mississippi Low Income Child Care Initiative  
Mississippi Urban League, Inc.  
NAMI Texas  
Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable  
Nashville NAACP Health Committee

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter  
NC AIDS Action Network  
NC Council of Churches  
NC Justice Center  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Network of Behavioral Health Providers  
New Hope Housing  
New Hope Peacemaking Network  
No More Silence Foundation  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
Nurture KC  
Nurture the Next  
Oral Health Kansas  
Panhandle Community Services  
Parents for Public Schools, Inc.  
Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic  
Pro-Choice North Carolina  
Protect Our Care Georgia  
Rescuing Health  
Resource Center Texas  
Restaurant Opportunities Center Mississippi (ROC-MS)  
Restored Citizens  
Restored Citizens  
RESULTS Tennessee  
Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas  
Sick of It Texas  
SKIL Resource Center Inc Kansas  
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center  
Southern Birth Justice Network  
Southern Christian Coalition  
Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative  
Southern Rural Black Women's Initiative for Economic and Social Justice  
SOWEGA Rising  
SPLC Action Fund  
Tennessee Chapter of National Association of Social Workers  
Tennessee Disability Coalition  
Tennessee Health Care Campaign  
Tennessee Justice Center

Texans Care for Children  
Texas AFL-CIO  
Texas Organizing Project  
Texas Parent to Parent  
The 6:52 Project Foundation, Inc.  
The Center for Black Health & Equity  
The Healing Trust  
The Knights & Orchids Society  
Thrive Allen County (Kansas Cares)  
TN Healthcare Campaign  
Union for Reform Judaism  
Unitarian Universalist Justice Florida  
Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community  
United Community Services of Johnson County  
United for Respect  
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund  
United Way of Broward County  
United Way of Metropolitan Dallas  
United Way of Southern Cameron County  
United Way of Tarrant County  
United Ways of Texas  
Veronica's Voice  
Women for Kansas  
Wyoming Community Foundation  
Wyoming Education Association Retired  
Wyoming Women's Action Network  
Young Invincibles  
YWCA of Greater Atlanta  
YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee  
Zonta Club of Birmingham