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## **SOUTHERNERS FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION: CONGRESS AND THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION MUST ACT NOW TO CLOSE THE COVERAGE GAP**

The following is a joint statement of the member organizations of Southerners for Medicaid Expansion, regarding the news that an economic reconciliation package is in final negotiations:

"In the wake of the Dobbs decision, the need to close the Medicaid coverage gap is greater than ever. Failing to do so would be a moral failure on the part of Senate Democrats and the Biden Administration. It would be an unconscionable abandonment of over two million of the poorest Americans, mostly in the South, including more than one million Black Americans and people of color, and 800,000 women of reproductive age who need healthcare not only around their pregnancies, but throughout their entire lives. If Congress fails to act now, our neighbors will continue to suffer for years to come with no access to healthcare. Many will die from treatable illnesses. Congress and the Biden Administration must finish the work of the ACA and close the Medicaid coverage gap for good."

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Available for interview:

- Alison Holmes, a mother in the coverage gap in Sanford, Florida
- Holly Bullard, Chief Strategy & Development Officer, Florida Policy Institute
- Jane Adams, Cover Alabama Campaign Director, Alabama Arise
- Laura Colbert, Executive Director, Georgians for a Healthy Future

*Southerners for Medicaid Expansion is a coalition of hundreds of community leaders, grassroots organizations, and nonprofit policy think tanks across eight states—Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas—banding together to lead health equity movements across Southern states that have not expanded Medicaid.*