



VOTE YES on Warnock Coverage Gap Amendment to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022

August 03, 2022

Dear Senator,

We represent the 12 states that have refused to expand Medicaid. **We understand that Senator Reverend Warnock intends to offer an amendment to the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 to temporarily close the Medicaid coverage gap. It is imperative that you support this amendment.** Without a fix for the coverage gap, 2.2 million people—primarily Black and brown Americans who live in the South—will be left indefinitely without health insurance.

Senator Warnock's amendment will ensure that residents of states that have not expanded Medicaid can finally access health coverage. A vote in support of his amendment would bring us one step closer to fulfilling the original promise of the Affordable Care Act, affording every American the opportunity to see a doctor when necessary. Closing the Medicaid coverage gap is the most racially equitable health policy this Congress could enact.

It is true that our state leaders have failed the people of our states by not expanding Medicaid, but the problem goes beyond that. The problem is that we live in a country that allows the systemic denial of basic life-saving health care coverage for low-income people of color. We need your help to fix this grave, historic injustice. And we need your help *now* because if we miss this opportunity, over 2 million people in our country could continue to live without health care coverage for the indefinite future.

This amendment will not jeopardize final passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. As proposed, the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is a positive step forward for the climate and health care. Even with all of its benefits, without your support for Senator Warnock's amendment, the proposed bill would leave behind the poorest Americans at a time when growing abortion restrictions make access to comprehensive health care even more urgent.

It is our deepest hope that you will stand with Senator Warnock and the 2.2 million people in the Medicaid coverage gap. **We urge you to support his amendment so that all low-income people and communities of color in our country can live with dignity.**

Sincerely,

The Southerners for Medicaid Expansion Coalition:

Alabama Arise
Children's Defense Fund-Texas
Every Texan
Florida Health Justice Project
Florida Voices for Health
Florida Policy Institute
Mississippi Center for Justice

Georgia Budget and Policy Institute
Georgians for a Healthy Future
North Carolina Justice Center
South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center
Tennessee Justice Center