



August 16, 2022

The following is a joint statement of the member organizations of the Southerners for Medicaid Expansion coalition, following the President's signing of the Inflation Reduction Act:

The Inflation Reduction Act represents a major investment in health care—but it leaves the poorest Americans behind. We applaud President Biden and Congress for lowering drug prices and keeping health plans affordable on the ACA marketplace, particularly for people with incomes just above the poverty line. However, this legislation offers little for the 2.2 million Americans in the Medicaid coverage gap who can't afford health plans or get a prescription in the first place.

By leaving out a federal fix to the Medicaid coverage gap in this bill, Congress has squandered an opportunity to deliver health coverage to our people in the coverage gap—most of them Black and brown, living across the South. These Americans have been waiting for decades to access basic, affordable, and reliable health insurance. We remain a nation where the health of our loved ones will be determined by their zip codes, their ages, and the little money they have in their bank accounts

We are deeply grateful to the Congressional leaders who tirelessly championed a federal fix to the Medicaid coverage gap in this legislation, every step of the way.

We are not finished. Our coalition remains determined to close the Medicaid coverage gap. We will continue to fight alongside our Congressional champions to find a solution for our communities, and in our state Capitols. We will continue to educate, mobilize, and amplify those left behind in the Medicaid coverage gap. We will continue working together to build a healthcare system that serves everyone.

We call on Congressional leaders, President Biden, and partners across the nation to join us.

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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. More information available at southerners4medex.org