



ONE FEDERAL STREET, BOSTON, MA 02110
MAIN: 617.338.6035
FAX: 617.451.5838
www.communitycatalyst.org

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader,
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader,
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader,
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Protect the Maintenance-of-Effort Provision (MOE) in Future Aid Packages

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of consumers across the country, we greatly appreciate your efforts to address the Coronavirus pandemic threatening the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. As you know, Medicaid is vital in combating the spread of the virus. It increases access to coverage and care for millions of people and provides a badly needed health care and financial safety net for millions of households when they need it most—in the midst of an economic downturn. It is also the program best positioned to scale up and respond to this crisis. Increasing investment in Medicaid during this pandemic is an efficient way to direct revenue to state budgets as they struggle with increased demand, while also providing health care services.

Thanks to the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, a maintenance-of-effort (MOE) provision protects people who currently rely on Medicaid from becoming uninsured. As a condition of receiving the 6.2 percentage point increase in Medicaid, states:

- Must maintain eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures that are no more restrictive than what the state had in place as of January 1, 2020;
- Must cover all testing, treatment and COVID-19 related services without cost sharing;
- Must adhere to the prohibition on premium increases during the crisis; and
- May not terminate coverage of individuals enrolled during the pandemic.



Repealing or altering the MOE would lead to drastic increases in the uninsured rate—particularly for people who already face unfair or discriminatory barriers to care—at a time when coverage is paramount and maintaining household financial stability is harder than ever. In past recessions, in the absence of maintenance-of-effort rules, states have used eligibility cuts as a way to balance state budgets, causing millions of people—including children—to lose coverage.

We urge you, and the full Congress to maintain unwavering support for the MOE requirement, notwithstanding any appeals you may receive to repeal or alter the provision. Recent analysis from Health Management Associates (HMA), shows that the MOE will help 5 million people maintain their Medicaid coverage during the public health emergency. We recognize that states may need additional federal support to balance their budgets, even beyond the substantial assistance you have already championed, but state budget balance must not come at the expense of the health and safety of individuals and families. **If the maintenance-of-effort provision is repealed now, the number of low-income Americans cut off Medicaid and cast into the ranks of the uninsured will be devastating—both to our economy and long-term health.**

Finally, if the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic contraction show us anything, it is that we are all interdependent. Undermining coverage and care for one sector of the population inevitably spills over to affect the health care system and the general population more broadly. We all have a stake in maintaining the broadest possible coverage in the midst of this crisis.

We again urge you not to alter the MOE provision, and thank you for your efforts to help steer our country through this crisis as effectively as possible.

With respect,

Community Catalyst and our partners across the country:

Alabama Arise
Alabama

Arkansas Advocates for Children and
Families
Arkansas

Hometown Action
Alabama

Arkansas Community Organizations
Arkansas

Children's Action Alliance
Arizona

California Pan-Ethnic Health
Network
California



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Health Access California
California

Alliance for Retired Americans
Connecticut

Center for Health Progress
Colorado

Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition
(BCAC)
Connecticut

Colorado Association for School-
Based Health Care
Colorado

Connecticut Citizen Action Group
Connecticut

Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado

Connecticut Legal Rights Project
Connecticut

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado

End Hunger Connecticut!
Connecticut

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition
Colorado

Every Woman Connecticut
Connecticut

Colorado Fiscal Institute
Colorado

Frank H Netter School of Medicine
Connecticut

Colorado Organization for Latina
Opportunity and Reproductive Rights
(COLOR)
Colorado

Greater Hartford Legal Aid,
Connecticut Legal Services, and New
Haven Legal Assistance
Connecticut

Colorado Senior Lobby
Colorado

National Association of Social
Workers Connecticut Chapter
Connecticut

Healthier Colorado
Colorado

Protect Our Care Connecticut
Connecticut

Stahlman Disability Consulting, LLC
Colorado

Regional Youth Adult Social Action
Partnership (RYASAP)
Connecticut



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State Office of the Healthcare
Advocate
Connecticut

Citizen Action Group, Illinois
Illinois

The Connecticut Oral Health
Initiative, Inc.
Connecticut

EverThrive Illinois
Illinois

Universal Health Care Foundation of
Connecticut
Connecticut

Heartland Alliance
Illinois

Southern New England Conference
of the United Church of Christ
Connecticut, Massachusetts, and
Rhode Island

Legal Council for Health Justice
Illinois

National Association of Social
Workers Connecticut Chapter
Connecticut

Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Illinois

Florida Voices for Health
Florida

Faith in Indiana
Indiana

Organize Florida
Florida

Hoosier Action
Indiana

Georgians for a Healthy Future
Georgia

Child and Family Policy Center
Iowa

Idaho Voices for Children
Idaho

Iowa Citizen Action Network
Iowa

United Action for Idaho
Idaho

Iowa Citizens for Community
Improvement Action Fund
Iowa

AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Illinois

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas
Kansas



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Kentucky Voices for Health
Kentucky

Arab Community Center for
Economic and Social Services
(ACCESS)
Michigan

Louisiana Budget Project
Louisiana

Main Street Alliance Action Fund
Minnesota

Consumers for Affordable Health
Care
Maine

TakeAction Minnesota
Minnesota

Maine Equal Justice
Maine

Mississippi Health Advocacy
Program
Mississippi

Maine People's Alliance
Maine

Missouri Jobs with Justice
Missouri

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative
Maryland

Missouri Jobs with Justice Voter
Action
Missouri

Public Justice Center
Maryland

Parents as Teachers National Center
Missouri

Children's Mental Health Campaign
Massachusetts

Big Sky 55+
Montana

Disability Policy Consortium
Massachusetts

Montana Women Vote
Montana

Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Massachusetts

Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska

Massachusetts Society for the
Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Massachusetts

Battle Born Progress
Nevada

New Futures
New Hampshire

Broome-Tioga Green Party
New York



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New Hampshire Interfaith Action
Fund, Inc
New Hampshire

Callen-Lorde Community Health
Center
New York

Rights & Democracy New
Hampshire
New Hampshire

Campaign for New York Health
New York

Legal Services of New Jersey
New Jersey

Caring Professionals
New York

New Jersey Citizen Action
New Jersey

Center for Disability Rights
New York

Salvation and Social Justice (SandSJ)
New Jersey

Center for Elder Law & Justice
New York

New Mexico Center in Law and
Poverty
New Mexico

Center for Frontline Retail
New York

504 Democratic Club
New York

Center for Independence of the
Disabled
New York

ADAPT Capital Region
New York

Children's Defense Fund - New York
New York

AIM Independent Living Center
New York

Chinese-American Planning Council
New York

ARISE Child and Family Service,
Inc.
New York

Citizen Action of New York
New York

Brooklyn Center for Independence of
the Disabled
New York

Citizens' Committee for Children of
New York
New York



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Community Access
New York

Horizons to Reach LLC
New York

Community Service Society of New
York
New York

Indivisible Binghamton
New York

Consumer Directed Personal
Assistance Association of New York
State
New York

Interfaith Impact of NYS
New York

Disabled in Action of Greater
Syracuse Inc.
New York

Justice & Peace Resource Center
New York

Dutchess County Progressive Action
Alliance
New York

League of Women Voters of St.
Lawrence County
New York

Empire Justice Center
New York

Long Island ADAPT
New York

Family Health Centers at NYU
Langone
New York

Long Island Center for Independent
Living, Inc.
New York

Foundation for Integrative AIDS
Research (FIAR)
New York

Make the Road New York
New York

Greater New York Labor- Religion
Coalition
New York

Medicaid Matters New York
New York

Hand in Hand: The Domestic
Employers Network
New York

Metro New York Health Care for All
New York



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New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) New York	Rockland Independent Living Center, Inc. New York
New York Association on Independent Living New York	Southern Tier Independence Center New York
New York Caring Majority New York	Special Support Services New York
New York Immigration Coalition New York	Strong Economy For All Coalition New York
New York Legal Assistance Group New York	Sunset Park Family Health Council, Family Health Center New York
New York Self-Determination Coalition New York	Supporting our Youth and Adults Network New York
New York State Alliance for Retired Americans New York	Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. New York
New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc. New York	The Legal Aid Society (NYC) New York
Not Dead Yet New York	Trusted Choice Homecare New York
Putnam Progressives New York	Uptown Progressive Action New York
Ranni Law Firm New York	Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project New York



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New York State American Academy
of Pediatrics
New York

The Center for Community Solutions
Ohio

Action North Carolina
North Carolina

Universal Health Care Action
Network of Ohio
Ohio

NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina
North Carolina

Oklahoma Policy Institute
Oklahoma

NC Justice Center
North Carolina

Main Street Alliance Action Fund
Oregon

Advocates for Ohio's Future
Ohio

Health Care for All Oregon
Oregon

Black Women Rising
Ohio

Community Legal Services of
Philadelphia
Pennsylvania

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio
Ohio

Pennsylvania Budget and Policy
Center
Pennsylvania

Human Service Chamber of Franklin
County
Ohio

Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral
Health
Pennsylvania

Ohio Consumers for Health
Coverage Coalition
Ohio

The 99% Pennsylvania
Pennsylvania

Ohio Federation of Teachers
Ohio

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition
Rhode Island

Ohio Poverty Law Center
Ohio

South Carolina Appleseed Legal
Justice Center
South Carolina



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Tennessee Citizen Action
Tennessee

Children At Risk
Texas

Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee

Church Women United Child Care
Center
Texas

Tennessee Justice Center
Tennessee

City of Austin
Texas

ADAPT of Texas
Texas

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Texas

American College of Obstetricians
and Gynecologists - District XI
Texas

Community Health Choice
Texas

American Heart Association-Texas
Texas

Deeds Not Words
Texas

Anthem Strong Families
Texas

DePelchin Children's Center
Texas

AVANCE-Houston, Inc.
Texas

Family Service
Texas

Black Mamas ATX
Texas

First3Years
Texas

Center for Civic and Public Policy
Improvement
Texas

Harris County Department of
Education
Texas

Children's Defense Fund – Texas
Texas

Heart of Texas Region MHMR ECI
Texas

Indivisible Austin
Texas

St. Paul Children's Services
Texas



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Kiddie Academy of Lakes of
Savannah
Texas

Talitha Koum Institute
Texas

LifeSteps Council on Alcohol &
Drugs
Texas

Texans Care for Children
Texas

McLennan Community College
Child Studies Lab School
Texas

Texas Academy of Family
Physicians
Texas

Mental Health America of Greater
Houston
Texas

Texas AFL-CIO
Texas

Metropolitan Health District
Texas

Texas Association for the Education
of Young Children
Texas

North Texas Alliance to Reduce
Teen Pregnancy
Texas

Texas CASA
Texas

Nurse-Family Partnership
Texas

Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas
Chapter of the AAP
Texas

People's Community Clinic
Texas

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition
Texas

Personal Attendant Coalition of
Texas
Texas

TexProtects
Texas

Rupani Foundation
Texas

The Pregnancy and Postpartum
Health Alliance of Texas
Texas



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United Way for Greater Austin
Texas

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public
Policy
Virginia

United Way of Southern Cameron
County
Texas

Virginia Organizing
Virginia

United Way of the Coastal Bend
Texas

Community Health Network of
Washington
Washington

United Way of Waco-McLennan
County
Texas

Community Health Plan of
Washington
Washington

United Ways of Texas
Texas

Economic Opportunity Institute
Washington

Women's Health and Family
Planning Association of Texas
Texas

Health Care Is a Human Right WA
Washington

Young Invincibles
Texas

MLK County Working Families
Party
Washington

Utah Health Policy Project
Utah

Northwest Health Law Advocates
Washington

Rights & Democracy Vermont
Vermont

Puget Sound Advocates for
Retirement Action (PSARA)
Washington

Voices for Vermont's Children
Vermont

Washington Community Action
Network
Washington

New Virginia Majority
Virginia

American Friends Service
Committee
West Virginia



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Mountain State Justice
West Virginia

Commission on the Public's Health
System
National Organization

West Virginia Center on Budget and
Policy
West Virginia

March of Dimes
National Organization

West Virginia FREE
West Virginia

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization

West Virginia Citizen Action Group
West Virginia

Treatment Action Group
National Organization

Wisconsin Alliance Women's Health
Wisconsin

People's Action
National Organization

Mountain State Justice
West Virginia

National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization

Wisconsin Council of Churches
Wisconsin