



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

April 4, 2019

The Honorable Sherrod Brown  
U.S. Senate  
503 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown,

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,000 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to express our support for the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act*. This bill proposes a 12-month continuous enrollment period in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, which would allow beneficiaries to maintain their coverage and minimize disruptions in their care, thereby vastly improving their overall health.

While this bill protects the millions of individuals and families in Medicaid and CHIP, it also alleviates the added paperwork burden placed on state agencies, providers and health plans caused by fluctuations in a family's or an individual's monthly income. By transitioning to a 12-month continuous enrollment, the administrative costs associated with recertification, enrollment processing and re-processing will decrease making Medicaid and CHIP a more efficient program to administer.

The Catholic Health Association (CHA) is strongly committed to ensuring our nation's Medicaid program remains a viable, efficient and effective program. We have heard from many of our members about how both the Medicaid program and CHIP provide value to the lives of the patients they serve. Our Catholic health ministry cares for people and communities across the United States, focusing particular attention to those who are poor, underserved and most vulnerable—many of whom benefit from the life-saving coverage of Medicaid and CHIP. As the nation's largest group of not-for-profit health care providers, we support initiatives like the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act* to guarantee the continuity of care for beneficiaries.

In closing, thank you for introducing this bill, which will make a difference in the lives of millions of individuals, children and families who depend on Medicaid and CHIP. We at CHA look forward to working with you on passage of this bill, and if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me or another member of our advocacy staff.

Sincerely,

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC  
President and CEO