



*We Will Empower Bold Change to Elevate
Human Flourishing.™*

May 13, 2025

Representative Brett Guthrie
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Guthrie:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers, healthcare systems, and other facilities across all fifty states, **I write to express our opposition to the recently released budget reconciliation text being marked up in the House Energy and Commerce Committee. The legislation as written would harm critical health and social safety-net programs, especially the Medicaid program, that are lifelines for your constituents and the patients and communities we serve.**

As currently written, the bill's provisions requiring mandatory work reporting, restricting states' ability to care for undocumented immigrants, limiting provider taxes and altering state directed payment policies will result in coverage losses for over 10 million individuals who depend on Medicaid to meet their basic health needs. These provisions fail to protect health care for those who need it most and instead create new red tape and burdensome requirements for families, providers and states.

Medicaid is critical for the health of the most low-income in our country, providing coverage for one in five individuals, nearly half of all children, 41% of all births nationwide, and is the largest insurer for long-term care and behavioral health services. The proposed changes to Medicaid would have devastating consequences, particularly for those in small towns and rural communities, where Medicaid is often the primary source of health care coverage. Many of our hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes are among the largest providers in their communities, caring for millions of Medicaid patients every year. Reducing Medicaid funding by over \$700 billion and shifting these costs to the states, providers and families would force millions of people to lose their coverage, threaten access to essential care and jeopardize the critical work of our healthcare providers.

We continue to reiterate: **Medicaid is not just a health program—it is a lifeline. It provides access to care for those who need it most—poor and vulnerable children, pregnant women, elderly, adults, and disabled individuals in our nation while ensuring their dignity.**

CHA and our members firmly believe that health care is a fundamental human right that is essential to human flourishing. For decades, we have championed policies ensuring everyone has

access to affordable health care. Rooted in our faith, we affirm that every individual is created in the image of God, possesses inalienable worth, and deserves care that upholds their inherent dignity. Our health ministry is especially committed to serving those most in need, recognizing that our mission is not complete until quality, affordable, and accessible health care is a reality for all.

We ask that you reconsider these proposals and instead champion policies rooted in compassion and dignity by ensuring everyone has access to affordable health care coverage. By protecting our most vulnerable, we create a healthier, stronger society for everyone.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "M".

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM
President and CEO

CC: Members of the House Energy and Commerce Committee