

June 09, 2025

The Honorable John Thune Senate Majority Leader S-230, The Capitol Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Crapo Chairman, Committee on Finance 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510 The Honorable Charles Schumer Senate Minority Leader S-221, The Capitol Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden Ranking Member, Committee on Finance 219 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Chair Crapo, and Ranking Member Wyden:

The 108 undersigned organizations and nearly 400 individuals represent health care providers who serve people experiencing homelessness, and others concerned about the health of unhoused people. We write to urge you to oppose the House reconciliation bill (<u>H.R. 1</u>), which would have catastrophic consequences for people experiencing homelessness.

As we outlined in <u>our January letter</u>, Medicaid is critical to addressing the health care needs of people experiencing homelessness. It allows unhoused people to access comprehensive, system-wide health care that better enables them to manage their health, work, go to school, and seek housing and other basic needs. Medicaid is also critical for homeless health care providers because it pays for the comprehensive care they deliver, thus reducing uncompensated care and increasing financial stability.

Nationwide, <u>55% of patients</u> at HRSA-funded Health Care for the Homeless (HCH) programs rely on Medicaid to access primary care, behavioral health care, specialty care and management of chronic conditions. The House reconciliation bill puts the vast majority of Health Care for the Homeless patients at risk of losing their Medicaid coverage and goes against the administration's stated goals of <u>decreasing homelessness</u>, <u>increasing substance use disorder treatment</u>, and <u>increasing health care efficiencies</u>. Instead, this bill adds administrative burden and red tape that will make it nearly impossible for unhoused people to retain Medicaid coverage and access the care they need. Provisions especially harmful to people experiencing homelessness include:

I. Address Verification – People experiencing homelessness cannot prove an address when they do not have one.

Address verification requirements are an especially significant barrier for unhoused individuals. Many live on the street, in cars, at shelters, or in other temporary spaces, none of which provide a fixed address to verify. It will also be difficult to provide verification documents from the list of "reliable data sources" due to a lack of access to mail. The address verification provision will make it nearly impossible for people experiencing homelessness to maintain coverage simply because they lack housing and an address, not because they are ineligible.

II. Citizenship Verification – Even citizens cannot verify their status without access to a birth certificate or other identifying documentation.

A lack of stable housing or secure storage make it difficult to provide or obtain documentation needed to verify citizenship status. Without a safe place to store documents like birth certificates and IDs, these items are often lost, stolen, or thrown away during evictions, encampment sweeps, and other destabilizing events. Replacing them can be challenging due to fees and application processes that often require internet access or in person visits to government offices (which ironically also require an ID). As a result, many U.S. citizens will be kicked off their Medicaid coverage because they could not afford or could not obtain the identification documents needed to prove their citizenship status.

III. Frequent Eligibility Redeterminations – Recertifying without reliable access to mail, phones, or the internet is exceedingly difficult when trying to meet basic needs.

People experiencing homelessness often lack consistent access to mail, phones, or the internet, resources which are needed to continuously comply with recertification. They often do not receive recertification notices and are unable to complete the paperwork or present the necessary documents. When trying to meet basic needs like food, shelter, and safety on a daily basis, increasing the frequency of redeterminations to every 6 months will only result in widespread disenrollments and a lost opportunity to engage vulnerable people in the health care services they need. This is highly inefficient for both providers and patients and increases overall costs for the health care system.

IV. Work Requirements – Proving either compliance or an exemption is difficult when living on the streets.

Over half of people experiencing homelessness are already working, but this provision puts them at high risk of losing coverage because reporting hours is extremely difficult with limited phone and internet access. Monthly reporting requirements will be especially burdensome and difficult to comply with, leading to coverage loss that further destabilizes individuals and makes ongoing employment more difficult. Those eligible for exemptions will struggle to prove (and continuously reprove) their exemption status. It will also be burdensome for providers who will be forced to spend clinic time continuously proving exemptions for patients. This provision will cause large-scale loss of coverage, increase uncompensated care for providers, and lower employment rates as people disconnected from care become too sick to work.

In addition to those outlined above, we are deeply concerned about other provisions in the legislation that reduce retroactive coverage from 90 days to 30, impose out-of-pocket cost sharing for low-income people, penalize states for providing care to noncitizens, and prohibit the use of funds for gender affirming care. These changes will create paperwork and administrative burdens so great that it will be nearly impossible for unhoused individuals to maintain Medicaid coverage, limiting access to critical care and yielding worse health and housing outcomes. Providers will also lose revenue and be burdened spending clinic time filling out paperwork to keep patients covered rather than delivering care. Taken together, the House reconciliation bill contradicts the Administration's stated goals of decreasing homelessness, increasing access to substance use treatment, and increasing health care efficiencies.

Together with the organizations and individuals below, we urge you to reject the House reconciliation bill and oppose changes that kick individuals off of Medicaid.

Sincerely,

Bobby Watts

CEO

National Organizations

Any Positive Change Inc. Association for Community Affiliated Plans Autistic People of Color Fund Catholic Health Association of the United States Coalition on Human Needs Community Catalyst Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces Corporation for Supportive Housing **Drug Policy Alliance** Funders Together to End Homelessness Healthcare Anchor Network Housing Justice Collective National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd National Alliance to End Homelessness National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners National Association of Social Workers National Coalition for the Homeless National Harm Reduction Coalition National Low Income Housing Coalition National Women's Shelter Network, Inc. National Working Positive Coalition Presbyterian HIV Network, PHEWA PC USA Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK) SchoolHouse Connection The AIDS Institute UnidosUS United Church of Christ

State and Local Organizations

Alabama

AIDS Alabama

Five Horizons Health Service

Alaska

Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

California

Coalition of CA Welfare Rights Organizations

Dientes Community Dental Care

Friends Outside

GLIDE

Humboldt Area Center for Harm Reduction

(HACHR)

Northeast Valley Health Corporation

Colorado

Ascending To Health Respite Care

Colorado Coalition for the Homeless

Vivent Health

Connecticut

Thompson Ecumenical Empowerment Group

Delaware

HAD

Georgia

Georgia Advancing Communities Together, Inc.

H-STAT

Illinois

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Center for Housing and Health

Housing Action Illinois

Illinois Partners for Human Service

Impact Behavioral Health Partners

Legal Council for Health Justice

The Night Ministry

Vivent Health

<u>Indiana</u>

Fair Housing Center of Central Indiana

Greater Indianapolis Multifaith Alliance (GIMA)

LTHC Homeless Services

Mental Health America of West Central Indiana

Prosperity Indiana

Kentucky

VOCAL-KY

Maryland

Health Care for the Homeless Baltimore

Rooted in Wellness, LLC

Massachusetts

Boston Healthcare for the Homeless

Greater Boston Legal Services, on behalf of our

clients

Michigan

Genesis Non Profit Housing Corporation

HOPE Shelters

Vivent Health

Minnesota

Bob Tavani House for Medical Respite

MICAH Metropolitan Interfaith Council on

Affordable Housing

Missouri

Vivent Health

Nevada

Nevada Housing Coalition

New Jersey

Family Promise of Morris County NJ

Housing and Community Development Network of

New Jersey

National Alliance on Mental Illness of New Jersey

NJ Coalition to End Homelessness

Rescue Mission

Supportive Housing Association of New Jersey

Volunteers of America-Greater New York

The Waterfront Project, Inc.

New Mexico

Amador Health Center

MacDowell Law PC

New York

Broadway Community

Care For the Homeless New York

Care Found Here

The Health & Housing Consortium

Health x Housing Lab at NYU Langone Health

iHealth, Inc.

Neighbors Together

NYU Speakers Bureau

Urban Pathways

VOCAL-NY

Volunteers of America-Greater New York

North Carolina

Helping Hands of the Cape Fear

North Dakota

Fargo Moorhead Coalition to End Homelessness

Ohio

Center for Respite Care, Inc.

Joseph & Mary's Home

Oregon

Central City Concern

Northwest Human Services (FQHC)

Pennsylvania

Housing Alliance of Pennsylvania

Puerto Rico

Coalición de Coaliciones Pro Personas sin Hogar de

PR, inc.

Tennessee

Welcome Home of Chattanooga

Texas

Vivent Health

VOCAL-TX

<u>Utah</u>

Homeless at the End

The INN Between

Unity Care Northwest

Utah Housing Coalition

Wasatch Homeless Healthcare, dba Fourth Street

Clinic

Washington

Campion Advocacy Fund

Community Health Care (WA.)

Council for the Homeless

Neighborcare Health

Washington Association for Community Health

Washington Low Income Housing Alliance

Yakima Neighborhood Health Services

Wisconsin

Vivent Health

Individual Sign On

Arizona

Kate Chandler Kylee Newgass Megan Sanes

Arkansas

Janet Gardner

California

Dulce Barajas
Joseph Becerra
Sharon Bunch
Deanna Drake
Julia Gaines
Deirdre Gitau
Linda Hatfield
Cindy Hopp
Antoinette Jackson

Antoinette Jackso Sara Jalil Alissa Johnson Kirsten Juel Alison Klurfeld Paula Lomazzi Tanya Majumder Craig Mendoza Jennifer Miles Jacob Moody Robert Morse Deanna Pennino

Lekshmi Santhosh Amy Shea Scott Sprigel Anna Strait Andrea Wass Margaret Wessner

Suzanne Petersen

Kristina Riera

Colorado

Joshua Barocas Matthew Bennett Frederick Collins Kimberly Hirst Sean Kiley Sarah Martin Samantha Nall Ji Nam

Miriah Nunnaley

Connecticut

Phil Balogh Rakesh Chandra David Hill <u>Delaware</u>

Sonya Starr

District of Columbia

Lindsay Curtin Holly Czachura William Jordan George Kerr III Murray Penner

<u>Florida</u>

Diana Bender-Bier Carolyn Dodge Mari Fabick Carl Falconer Kenneth Merena Marianne Morgan Caitlin Synovec Pia Valvassori

Georgia

Isabelle Blanchard Teresa Durham Martha Sheets Kate Tettamant Joan Toder

<u>Hawaii</u>

Timothy Hurney

Illinois

Cosette Ayele
Rodney Dawkins
Patricia De Biasi
Nancy Hanson
Sharon Langshur
Rudolph Neustadt
Maureen Pike
Molly Pilgreen
Nancy Robinson
Rita Ruby
Lilian Sebastian
Sarah Vetrano

Indiana

Yovani Castaneda John Chambers Amina Dalal Michael Flinn Forrest Gilmore Jessica Malone Karen Martoglio Amy Oviedo Samantha Quinn Lacie Rader Tytus Ragle Alex Slabosky Wilbur Sutton Kay Wiles Myra Wilkey

Iowa

Gary Hankins

Kansas

Christine English-Baird

Kentucky

Rodney Bright Nolan Nelson

Emily Anne Pride Sutton

Louisiana

Shaya Khorsandi

Maine

Anna McInerney Courtney Pladsen

Maryland

Barbara DiPietro Leah Eickhoff Katherine Ewald Jean Hochron Sarah Hurlbert Arianne Jennings Katie League Kevin Lindamood Shayla Redfear Katherine Rediger

Jill Rice Dan Ross Janelle Sanders Selina Su

Massachusetts

Rachel Alatalo Charlotte Badler Yvonne Bauer Dana Bein Marguerite Beiser Jennifer K Brody Mari Brooks James Carr Terence Cawley Geena Chen Susie Clifford Erica Colwell Naomi Cooke Emma Cosgrove Elyse Dalal Claire Dillenbeck Ella Duchesneau Mark Eisenberg Emily Faith Carmela Fimian Julia Garvey Amy Grassette Emily Gregonis Rebecca Grimsley Kristin Guyot C. Corey Hardin Joanna Hawkins

Joanna Hawkins
Meghan Hickey
Emily Hildebrant
Elizabeth Jukovsky
Ghulam Khan
Samantha Kramer
Jenna Lebeck
Hannah Matheson
Catherine Matthews
Shea McAuley
Margaret McSharry
Martha Miller
Sam Musher
Grace Parker
Pardis Parsa
Jennifer Pollard

Samantha Rawlins-Pilgrim

Jessica Reed Sophie Roe Emma Rugg Haley Short Jennifer Steele Maggie Sullivan Samantha Tincler Enzo Vallee

Clark Van Den Berghe Taylor Vierling Michelle Whitaker Chloe Wilson Edward Woll Tayler Wyss Morgan Younkin

Michigan

Nora Becker Anastasia Coleman Suzanne Fabick Lynn Fowler Virginia Gauger Mark Mitchell Alexis Pollock Angela Roberson Justin Romero Judith Runk

Minnesota
Morgan Smith
Rebecca Skoler
Emily Thor
Katherine Vickery
Kathryn Xu

Mississippi Paul Fimian

Missouri
James Deshotels
Jessica File
Lillee Izadi

Nevada Jason Schwartz

New Hampshire Tracy Tinker

New Jersey
Cassandra Gilbert
Yusef Ismail
Peter Jacob
Stephen Rodgers
Clare Tomlin

New Mexico
Desiree Beltran
Rachel Biggs
Oakley Blasdel
Malea Joyce
Nancy Koenigsberg
Sigrid Olson
John Salamack
Laura Salamy
Patricia Stelzner
Matias Vega

New York
Jakia Ahmed
Taylor Allen
Shatema Amante
Asmun Amazigh
Arthena Antonetti
Mira Batra
Brooke Beermann
Leslie Beltran
John Betts
Daniel Borchard
Sade Butler
Angela Calhoun
Catherine Castillo

Zoe Colonna
Sharon Darlington
Michelle Djibo
Kelly Doran
Cynthia English
Aurelia Esquilin
Carolyn Flaherty
Delia Fonseca
Christel Francois
Yarian Gonzalez
Arnaldo Gonzalez-Aviles
Brittany Green
Patricia Hernandez
Cadambi Janardhan

Tainanna Jenkins Karen John Marta Kaminski Jacqueline Lloyd Elizabeth Lynch Philip Malebranche Althea Matthews Fran Melendez Malik Miller Gilbert Mitchell Jessica Moore Katherine Mullins Surabhi Nirkhe Isabel Odean Holt Joseph Page Milton Perez Yolanda Price Bryana Puello Chelsea Rose Dionne Saint Stephanie Schmitz Michael Shen Elissa Shepherd Steve Silvestri

North Carolina
Kate Burdekin
Dora May
Galen May
Charita McCollers

Brooks Ann McKinney

Victor Sta. Ana

Pamela Stephens

Melissa Williams

Will Woods

Elisa Wallman Jacques

<u>Ohio</u>

Elizabeth Abrams Robert Donovan Carley Lutz Lauralyn Poland Nora Riggs

Raj Chablani

Hilja Ruegg Brittany Sandoval Joshua Smith Pratik Thakur

Oregon

Alena Bellue Peter Buekea Eric Chen Layni Kaplan Anna Zeigler

Pennsylvania

Kathy Eisenberg
Cynthia Hogan
Hannah Hoover
Debra Keller
Marsha Macalush
Zoe Meyer
Sue Pappas
Jason Park
Brina Ratangee
Nadiva Sternman
Michael Van Scoy
Beatrice Zovich

Rhode Island

Linda Dziobek Gabriel Pleasants Wendy Thomas

Tennessee

Lauryn Berner-Davis

Jesse Call
Jennifer Dix
Emily Eidson
Laurie Gavilo-Lane
Heather Heffner
Melissa Jean
John Lozier
Rachel Pearsall
Brett Poe
Laura Rabell
Julia Sutherland

Stephen Wilder Taylor Wilder

Texas

Laura Brennan Karen Cain Mudit Gilotra Marlene Novacheck Angela Snow Tiffany Weaver Preston Witt Utah

Kimberlin Correa Samantha Stacks

Vermont

Ann Dillenbeck Jessica Guardado

<u>Virginia</u>

Veronica Ayala-Sims Anita Bennett Nancy Castellon Tara Cauthen Bailey Clark Meredith Clark Katrina Comolli Leonard Edloe Leah Edwards Willow Fosket

Jennifer Frydrychowski

Hector Ivan Gonzalez Sustache

John Guglielmino Renee Hammel Sarah Hersh Nicole Jones Sharnette Liggans Susan Loan

Jenny Martinez-Tolentino Barbara McDougald

Lexie Mendez
Taylor Neeley
Anooj Patel
KellyAnn Petroski
Nancy Pitts

Dawn Rogers
LaChelle Rogers
Bronte Schick
JoAnne Stainback
Ærn Stapel

Amanda Steohan Michael Sullivan Tyra Wade Chelsea Wallace Kyla Zabala Lisa Zulawski

Washington

Gary Akizuki
Irene Basloe Saraf
Rachel Briegel
Dylan Colt
Barbara Cheyney
Jon Fricchione
Emily Heikkala
Peter Kliewer
Alyssa Lynch

Madison O'Callaghan

Amanda Richer Elana Sanford

West Virginia

Julia Deziel Debby Marco Samantha Marco

Wisconsin

Adela De La Santos Melissa Lien

Wyoming

Lisa Pool LaTrisha Sims