



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

July 13, 2022

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC

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

Dear Leader Schumer and Speaker Pelosi:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization representing more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, clinics, service providers and organizations, I urge you to include four critical health care coverage expansion and affordability provisions to address health equity, maternal mortality and enhance women's health in the economic recovery reconciliation package.

Congress must prioritize provisions to close the coverage gap and provide greater access under the Medicaid program, which not only serves the poor and vulnerable but many working individuals, families, and children. While Medicaid expansion has been adopted by many states, **there are over 2.2 million uninsured individuals with no access to affordable coverage** residing in non-expansion states. Congress must address this unjust situation, which disproportionately impacts communities of color, rural and low wage workers, as well as over 800,000 women who critically need access to health coverage. **We urge Congress to close the "Medicaid Coverage Gap" by expanding ACA Marketplace eligibility and subsidies, at least temporarily, for individuals under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level who live in the 12 Medicaid non-expansion states.**

While we applaud Congress and this Administration for making historic investments in reducing maternal health disparities, we urge Congress to ensure all low-income mothers have access to postpartum coverage and children have continuous coverage for a full year. **Congress should require all states to provide Medicaid postpartum coverage for a full year and ensure children have continuous coverage under the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs.**

The enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies from the American Rescue Plan (ARP) have provided critical support for reducing the cost of health care for working families and have allowed record numbers of people to purchase affordable and quality health insurance for themselves and their families. With inflation continuing to be a concern for many, these enhanced premium subsidies are essential for many who otherwise risk losing their coverage. A [recent study](#) showed that three million more people could be uninsured if these subsidies expire at the end of 2022, with older Americans, residents of rural areas and communities of color being the most impacted. **We urge Congress to extend the ACA enhanced premium subsidies to ensure affordable coverage remains available for millions.**

Finally, **we ask that Congress address the affordability of prescription drugs.** CHA's utmost priority is ensuring accessible and affordable health care for everyone in our nation, particularly the

most vulnerable. When individuals and families are unable to afford the costs of necessary medications, their overall health suffers as a result.

As Catholic health care providers, we are committed to reducing health disparities, promoting health equity, and ensuring that everyone in our nation has access to affordable health care. We urge you to support an economic recovery reconciliation bill that protects and expands access to affordable and accessible health care for low-income and working families while also addressing health care inequity in our nation. And we thank you for your leadership on behalf of all the communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

  
Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO

cc: U.S. Senate