



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

August 5, 2022

Dear Senator:

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 would like to offer our support for several key health and environmental provisions in the *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* framework being considered this week.

We strongly support the extension of the enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies made by the American Rescue Plan (ARP). These subsidies 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. A [recent report](#) from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation found that the uninsured rate in the U.S. reached an all-time low due to the success of these enhanced subsidies. With inflation continuing to be a concern for many, these enhanced premium subsidies are essential for many who otherwise risk losing their coverage.

We also support the provisions that address the affordability of prescription drugs. CHA's utmost priority is ensuring accessible and affordable health care for everyone in our nation, particularly vulnerable and elderly populations. When these and other individuals and families are unable to afford the costs of necessary medications, their overall health suffers as a result. Measures to reduce the high cost of medications will improve health outcomes and provide more equitable access to treatment.

Combatting climate change and protecting our environment have been an essential part of our work as Catholic health care. We are called to care for the earth and one another, especially those who are disproportionately burdened by environmental harm. **We support the historic investments to address climate change and promote clean energy.**

The *Inflation Reduction Act of 2022* represents a meaningful first step in advancing policies to ensure affordable and accessible care in this country. **We also strongly urge you to continue to work with the same intensity and 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.

Additionally, we continue to support measures to improve the health and well-being of mothers, babies, and children by expanding their access to high quality care. **We urge Congress to continue working to ensure this by requiring all states to provide postpartum coverage for mothers for a full year as well as continuous coverage for a full year for children under the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Programs.**

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