



*A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care*

October 21, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

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 continue to advocate for the inclusion of important health and social needs policies in the reconciliation package you are negotiating with Congress.

As we stated in our [previous letter](#), the forthcoming *Build Back Better* legislation presents a historic opportunity to truly aid the most marginalized in our country by providing resources to the elderly, working families, children, immigrants and low-income, minority and rural populations who need support in the face of challenges posed by the pandemic and ongoing inequality and poverty.

Our members have provided compassionate, high-quality care to persons of all ages, races, faiths, and ethnic backgrounds with special attention to the poor and vulnerable. Working as front-line providers during the pandemic, our members also continued their longstanding work to build a just health system that works for everyone. Catholic health providers have long tried to address problems of chronic illness, poverty, disparities, environmental dangers and other social determinants of health which impact the lives of people and communities nationwide. We urge you to keep provisions that address these issues as you continue your negotiations with Congress.

**We ask that you advance important health coverage policies** to extend the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplace premium and cost-sharing tax subsidies and the income cap on premiums made under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA); close the “Medicaid Coverage Gap” for over 2 million uninsured, very low-income adults (those under 100% of the Federal Poverty Level), who live in the 12 Medicaid non-expansion states; permanently extend Medicaid postpartum coverage for mothers for a full year; and increase federal funding for Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) to ensure the elderly and those living with disabilities have the support they need.

**We ask that you support policies that aid our front-line providers and invest in the well-being of staff** through support for increasing the health care workforce; provide for policies that aid our rural health providers; permanently expand the use of telehealth; and ensure that our hospitals, long-term care facilities and health care organizations have the resources to retain health care staff due to ongoing labor shortages.

**We ask that you include funding for important public health initiatives that advance health equity** by devoting critical resources for public health preparedness; reduce racial and ethnic health

disparities in maternal care, mental health, environmental threats from climate change; align federal assistance programs for immigrants with those of the ACA and ensure affordable housing.

**Lastly, we ask that you continue to advocate immigration reform by providing a** pathway to lawful permanent status for certain immigrants including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Temporary Protected Status program participants, if not in the reconciliation bill then through vigorous support for the American Dream and Promise Act.

As Catholic health care providers, we are committed to reducing health disparities, promoting health equity, protecting life and conscience, and ensuring that everyone in our nation has access to affordable health care and coverage. Following the challenges of the last twenty months, we hope that you will not only provide the necessary resources to help our communities recover from the pandemic but also approve forward-thinking and transformative policies to benefit those living on the margins of society and our nation. We thank you for your leadership on behalf of all the communities we are privileged to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sr. Mary Haddad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'M'.

Sr. Mary Haddad, RSM  
President and CEO

CC: Members of Congress