



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

December 4, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Speaker Pelosi, Leader Schumer, and Leader McCarthy:

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing clinicians, health care providers, safety net plans, and counties – urges you to include important Medicaid priorities in a forthcoming legislative package to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The Partnership is hopeful that Congress is coming together on compromise legislation based on the recent framework put together by a bipartisan group of Senators and Representatives. However, we hope that the final proposal includes several Medicaid priorities that are essential for beneficiaries and the states that administer these programs.

A recent article from The Wall Street Journal titled [Medicaid Enrollment Surge During Pandemic Leaves States Looking for Cost Cuts](#) outlines the dire consequences beneficiaries and providers face as state leaders balance their budgets during this challenging year. The pandemic continues to be an important health and economic lifeline for individuals and families and enrollment is projected to increase by 8.2%, based on data compiled by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Throughout the summer, prominent nonpartisan organizations like the National Governors Association, the National Association of State Budget Officers and the National Association of Medicaid Directors have called for increased federal support for Medicaid underscoring the urgency of the issue.

As you finalize a bipartisan COVID-19 package, we wanted to attach the letter we sent this past summer which outlines important Medicaid provisions that must be included—namely **increasing the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for Medicaid by 5.8 percent, for a total increase of 12 percent at a minimum** as well as **language ensuring equitable relief for the safety net providers and those who serve large numbers of Medicaid beneficiaries who continue to face tremendous financial challenges during time.**

The Partnership for Medicaid looks forward to working with Congress to preserve and strengthen the Medicaid program through this uncertain time and support its vital role as a safety net for millions of Americans. If you have questions on any of the priorities discussed in this letter, please contact Eric Waskowicz at the American Academy of Family Physicians, First Co-Chair of the Partnership for Medicaid at EWaskowicz@aafp.org or partnershipformedicaid@gmail.com.

Attachment: [Letter to Congress in support of Medicaid-related policies to address COVID-19, July 20, 2020](#)