



Modern Medicaid
ALLIANCE

June 30, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-222
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-230
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, H-204
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

Thank you for your careful attention and work to overcome the COVID-19 crisis. These are critical and serious times, and on behalf of the Modern Medicaid Alliance, we appreciate your commitment to ensuring that the health of the American people is at the forefront of Congressional action. **We write today to urge you to take immediate action to strengthen America's Medicaid program in pending and future COVID-19 relief packages. We call on Congress to enhance federal financing for Medicaid by increasing states' Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) by at least 12 percentage points, consistent with the request made by the bipartisan National Governors Association.** Increased federal funding is urgently needed to continue delivering care and services that are critical to the growing number of Americans who rely on the Medicaid program.

The Modern Medicaid Alliance is a partnership between Americans who value Medicaid and leading advocacy organizations. Together we educate policymakers and the public about the positive benefits and results of the Medicaid program. Our membership includes national and local organizations from across the country, such as:

- Advocates for hardworking, low-income Americans
- Children's advocates
- Minority health advocates
- Patient and consumer advocates
- Advocates for people with mental illness
- Advocates for people with disabilities
- Advocates for Americans 65+
- Health care providers
- Medicaid managed care organizations
- Business organizations

Medicaid is the largest health care program in the country, covering about 1 in 5 Americans, including millions of children, older adults, people with disabilities, and nearly 2 million veterans. Increasing Medicaid funding is critical to overcoming the COVID-19 crisis and ensuring economic stability.



Over the past 50 years, Medicaid has played a critical role in helping Americans when they need it most and has acted as a safety net for vulnerable populations to receive high-quality, cost-effective care. More than 70 million Americans are enrolled in Medicaid.

This number is expected to grow during the COVID-19 crisis. More than [40 million](#) people have lost their employment since March, and a recent [study](#) estimates that nearly 27 million Americans have lost their employer-sponsored insurance. According to the same study, almost half of the men, women, and children who have lost coverage are now eligible for Medicaid. Significant increased enrollment in the program will occur at the same time already-strained state budgets are dramatically reduced because of the economic downturn and loss of tax revenue.

Support for Medicaid is a bipartisan issue. In fact, [recent polling](#) found that 83% of voters think increasing funding for Medicaid amid COVID-19 should be a priority for Congress, including a bipartisan majority of Democrats (94%) and Republicans (73%). Additionally, over three-quarters of voters (79%) think it is better for lawmakers to increase spending on public programs like Medicaid, rather than decrease spending.

Americans recognize the benefits the Medicaid program provides to enrollees and communities at large – including improved educational outcomes, increased productivity, and better personal economic situations. Medicaid covers comprehensive services, in addition to high-quality medical care, including preventive care, behavioral health services, dental care, prescription drug coverage, health education, and diagnostic testing. Medicaid connects people with community services that help address social barriers to health and provides long-term services and supports to enable older adults and people with disabilities to remain independent in their homes and communities.

Medicaid programs are offering additional services at low or no cost in order to support patients and help stop the spread of COVID-19. Some of these [actions](#) include proactively eliminating patient cost-sharing for COVID-19 testing and in many cases treatment, covering the cost of telemedicine services, and ensuring access to prescription medication so patients can continue to address their health concerns during this time.

Thank you for your efforts to address public health during this challenging time. The Modern Medicaid Alliance is committed to working with you to support a Medicaid program that contributes to a stronger America.

Sincerely,

Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy (AMCP)
American Association of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
America's Health Insurance Plans
AmeriHealth Caritas
Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP)
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America



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Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Black Women's Health Imperative
BlueShield of California Promise Health Plan
Caregiver Action Network
Celiac Disease Foundation
Children's Hospital Association
Florida Voices for Health
Health Care Service Corporation (HCSC)
Healthcare Leadership Council
Healthy Schools Campaign
HealthyWomen
Men's Health Network
Molina Healthcare
National Alliance for Medicaid in Education
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Consumers League
National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
National Military Family Association
National Minority Quality Forum
National Organization on Disability
Providence St. Joseph Health
RetireSafe
School-Based Health Alliance
The Arc of the United States
Trinity Health
United Spinal Association
ZERO TO THREE