

April 3, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson Speaker of the House United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20003

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries Minority Leader United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20003 The Honorable John Thune Majority Leader United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer Minority Leader United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Minority Leader Schumer:

A healthy, productive America is a goal that we all should strive to meet as it makes our nation stronger. Inherent in that effort is ensuring that our nation's health care system is strong, efficient, and effective. The Medicaid program plays a critical role by providing access to health care services for those most vulnerable and in need, supporting safety-net providers — particularly in rural and underserved communities — and delivering a cost-effective coverage option. The cuts under consideration would have a direct impact on Medicaid beneficiaries and their ability to access needed health care. It is with this understanding that the Modern Medicaid Alliance (MMA) and its allies write to express our deep concerns and opposition to proposals as part of any joint budget resolution that would require significant reductions in federal funding to the Medicaid program to meet its targets. We urge the Senate and the House of Representatives to reject cuts to Medicaid as work continues to develop the joint fiscal year 2025 budget resolution.

The MMA is a partnership that includes leading U.S. advocacy organizations that value Medicaid. Its mission is to educate policymakers and the public about the program's benefits and to promote understanding of Medicaid's role in improving the lives of individuals and communities across the U.S. The members of the MMA and its supporters urge Congress to reject proposals that would reduce program funding or impose arbitrary, bureaucratic barriers that hinder access to care, burden providers, or otherwise undermine the stability of our nation's health care system.

Medicaid has proven to be an efficient and effective program. A reflection of the value of the program is the high level of support among Americans, with 76% expressing a favorable view, including 60% of Republicans and Trump voters.^{1,2} Medicaid provides essential access to care for children, people with disabilities, seniors, caregivers, veterans, and workers at low-wage jobs that do not offer health benefits. What is more, the vast majority of beneficiaries who can work

¹ <u>https://data.modernmedicaid.org/MMA/</u>

² <u>https://www.kff.org/medicaid/poll-finding/kff-health-tracking-poll-public-views-on-potential-changes-to-medicaid/</u>



do so: 92% of non-disabled adults under 65 who rely on Medicaid are either working, caring for a family member, managing an illness or disability, or attending school.³

Medicaid also serves as a vital foundation for critical health care providers. Rural, community, and children's hospitals rely on Medicaid to sustain services, and rural communities will be hit hardest by cuts to Medicaid funding which would force hospital closures, eliminate maternity care, limit access to other essential services, and lay off staff.^{4,5} The resulting losses to core health care infrastructure will endanger access to lifesaving care for everyone who lives in the affected communities.

Medicaid also covers 63% of nursing home residents nationwide, filling the gap left by Medicare's limited long-term care benefit. Since many residents remain in nursing homes well beyond the few weeks Medicare typically covers, Medicaid is essential to meeting the high cost of care and ensuring continued access.⁶

The program is equally vital for providers serving children, veterans, those with disabilities, caregivers, and those with behavioral health conditions living in the community. Hospitals and clinics depend on Medicaid to cover care for low-income patients, and cuts to funding would sharply increase uncompensated care costs — driving up medical debt, imposing added financial pressure on state and local governments, and shifting costs to those with private coverage. Health center leaders warn that even a small shift in patients from Medicaid to uninsured status could force clinics to reduce services or close locations, jeopardizing access to cost-effective primary care and medical services in communities.

While we appreciate that Congress is faced with challenging decisions, we strongly believe, as does the American public, that the correct course is to protect and preserve the Medicaid program and reject proposals to cut federal funding and apply polices that result in the loss of coverage. We look forward to working with you and stand ready to share constituent stories highlighting the value and importance of the Medicaid program.

Sincerely,

AARP

AASA, The School Superintendents Association Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy ADVION (formerly National Association for the Support of Long Term Care) AHIP Alliance for Aging Research Alliance for Rights and Recovery

³ <u>https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/5-key-facts-about-medicaid-work-requirements/</u>

⁴ <u>https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6904260/</u>

⁵ <u>https://www.americanprogress.org/article/medicaid-block-grants-and-per-capita-caps-jeopardize-state-budgets-health-care-access-and-public-health/</u>

⁶ https://medicareadvocacy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Issue-Brief-Medicaid-and-Nursing-Homes.pdf



Alliance for Women's Health and Prevention Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) American Academy of Family Physicians American Academy of Pediatrics American Association for Community Psychiatry American Association of Nurse Practitioners American Association on Heath and Disability American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network American College of Nurse-Midwives American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists American Foundation for Suicide Prevention American Nurses Association American Psychological Association Services American Society of Addiction Medicine American Speech-Language-Hearing Association Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF) Association for Community Affiliated Plans Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Autistic Self Advocacy Network Blue Cross Blue Shield Association Caregiver Action Network **Caring Across Generations** CHC: Creating Healthier Communities Children's Hospital Association CommunicationFIRST Community Catalyst CureLGMD2i Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Families USA Federation of American Hospitals Global Liver Institute Health Care Transformation Task Force Healthcare Leadership Council Healthy Schools Campaign HealthyWomen Huntington's Disease Society of America International Society of Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses Justice in Aging Kaiser Permanente Lakeshore Foundation LeadingAge Legal Action Center LGMD2D Foundation Little Lobbyists



Lutheran Services in America Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA) Mental Health America Mission: Motherhood NAACP NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals National Adult Day Services Association National Alliance for Caregiving National Alliance on Mental Illness National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers National Association of Community Health Centers National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners National Association of Rural Health Clinics National Council for Mental Wellbeing National Disability Rights Network (NDRN) National Federation of Families National Health Council National League for Nursing National Rural Health Association New Hampshire Psychological Association NHMH - No Health without Mental Health Nurses Who Vaccinate Pennsylvania Psychological Association Policy Center for Maternal Mental Health Postpartum Support International Utah Chapter Postpartum Support International Arizona Chapter Providence RetireSafe School-Based Health Alliance Speak Foundation TASC, Inc. (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities) TASH Tennessee Association of Adult Day Services The American Counseling Association The Arc of the United States The National Collaborative for Transformative Youth Policy The National Service Office for Nurse-Family Partnership and Child First Treatment Communities of America Trinity Health UnidosUS United Spinal Association Young People in Recovery Youth Power Project