**The Health Care Coverage Gap in [STATE]:**

**How It Affects You and What You Can Do About It**

The health care law was designed to provide a path to health insurance to all Americans, but unfortunately our state government still has work to do. [State’s] [GOVERNOR/LEGISLATOR] has not yet taken action to accept the federal money set aside for our state to provide affordable health care coverage to everyone in [state], including people with incomes like yours.

**There are options for getting your health care needs met today.**

Although we can’t sign you up for coverage today, in the meantime there are some free and low-cost options for getting any immediate health concerns checked out.

* **Many health care clinics offer free or low-cost care.** These clinics charge for health care services on a sliding-scale. Based on what you earn, you may qualify for free care:
  + [list area clinics and their numbers]
* **Many hospitals in our community offer free care or financial assistance so you can access needed services.** To find out whether you qualify, visit the hospital’s website or call the hospital’s billing department and ask for more information about their financial assistance policy. Let them know you are interested in understanding what programs they have to help patients who may not be able to afford the full cost of care, and ask them to send you the application and eligibility requirements (many are based on your income).
  + [List major hospitals that offer financial assistance and the appropriate contact information.
* **[STATE] has other programs that could help you get the care you need.** [List other state programs.Keep in mind that some public health departments also offer important preventive benefits and services.]

**You can help end this unfair gap in coverage.**

It’s not fair that elected officials in our state are preventing you and your family from having health coverage, while other families get help. The good news is that leaders in our state can choose to close this unfair gap in coverage at any time. As soon as they say yes, you and your family members will likely be eligible for health coverage through Medicaid.

The best way to get our elected officials to do the right thing is to make sure that they understand how this impacts folks like you. Our partner organization, [CONSUMER ADVOCACY ORG NAME], is collecting stories to help make our case stronger - it will make a huge difference if we can include your story. **Please contact them at [contact info] to find out how you can share your story about why it’s important for you to have health care coverage.**

We can work together to end this unfair coverage gap and move toward a day when all [STATE] residents, you included, have access to affordable, high-quality health care coverage.