



ONE FEDERAL STREET, BOSTON, MA 02110  
MAIN: 617.338.6035  
FAX: 617.451.5838  
[www.communitycatalyst.org](http://www.communitycatalyst.org)

April 14, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader,  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

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

The Honorable Steny Hoyer  
Majority Leader,  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**RE: Protect the Maintenance-of-Effort Provision (MOE) in Future Aid Packages**

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Democratic Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Majority Leader Hoyer, and Republican Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of consumers across the country, we greatly appreciate your efforts to address the Coronavirus pandemic threatening the health and well-being of individuals, families and communities. As you know, Medicaid is vital in combating the spread of the virus. It increases access to coverage and care for millions of people and provides a badly needed health care and financial safety net for millions of households when they need it most—in the midst of an economic downturn. It is also the program best positioned to scale up and respond to this crisis. Increasing investment in Medicaid during this pandemic is an efficient way to direct revenue to state budgets as they struggle with increased demand, while also providing health care services.

Thanks to the *Families First Coronavirus Response Act*, a maintenance-of-effort (MOE) provision protects people who currently rely on Medicaid from becoming uninsured. As a condition of receiving the 6.2 percentage point increase in Medicaid, states:

- Must maintain eligibility standards, methodologies, or procedures that are no more restrictive than what the state had in place as of January 1, 2020;
- Must cover all testing, treatment and COVID-19 related services without cost sharing;
- Must adhere to the prohibition on premium increases during the crisis; and
- May not terminate coverage of individuals enrolled during the pandemic.



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**Repealing or altering the MOE would lead to drastic increases in the uninsured rate—particularly for people who already face unfair or discriminatory barriers to care—at a time when coverage is paramount and maintaining household financial stability is harder than ever. In past recessions, in the absence of maintenance-of-effort rules, states have used eligibility cuts as a way to balance state budgets, causing millions of people—including children—to lose coverage.**

We urge you, and the full Congress to maintain unwavering support for the MOE requirement, notwithstanding any appeals you may receive to repeal or alter the provision. Recent analysis from Health Management Associates (HMA), shows that the MOE will help 5 million people maintain their Medicaid coverage during the public health emergency. We recognize that states may need additional federal support to balance their budgets, even beyond the substantial assistance you have already championed, but state budget balance must not come at the expense of the health and safety of individuals and families. **If the maintenance-of-effort provision is repealed now, the number of low-income Americans cut off Medicaid and cast into the ranks of the uninsured will be devastating—both to our economy and long-term health.**

Finally, if the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic contraction show us anything, it is that we are all interdependent. Undermining coverage and care for one sector of the population inevitably spills over to affect the health care system and the general population more broadly. We all have a stake in maintaining the broadest possible coverage in the midst of this crisis.

We again urge you not to alter the MOE provision, and thank you for your efforts to help steer our country through this crisis as effectively as possible.

With respect,

Community Catalyst and our partners across the country:

Alabama Arise  
Alabama

Arkansas Advocates for Children and  
Families  
Arkansas

Hometown Action  
Alabama

Arkansas Community Organizations  
Arkansas

Children's Action Alliance  
Arizona

California Pan-Ethnic Health  
Network  
California



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Health Access California  
California

Alliance for Retired Americans  
Connecticut

Center for Health Progress  
Colorado

Bridgeport Child Advocacy Coalition  
(BCAC)  
Connecticut

Colorado Association for School-  
Based Health Care  
Colorado

Connecticut Citizen Action Group  
Connecticut

Colorado Center on Law and Policy  
Colorado

Connecticut Legal Rights Project  
Connecticut

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative  
Colorado

End Hunger Connecticut!  
Connecticut

Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
Colorado

Every Woman Connecticut  
Connecticut

Colorado Fiscal Institute  
Colorado

Frank H Netter School of Medicine  
Connecticut

Colorado Organization for Latina  
Opportunity and Reproductive Rights  
(COLOR)  
Colorado

Greater Hartford Legal Aid,  
Connecticut Legal Services, and New  
Haven Legal Assistance  
Connecticut

Colorado Senior Lobby  
Colorado

National Association of Social  
Workers Connecticut Chapter  
Connecticut

Healthier Colorado  
Colorado

Protect Our Care Connecticut  
Connecticut

Stahlman Disability Consulting, LLC  
Colorado

Regional Youth Adult Social Action  
Partnership (RYASAP)  
Connecticut



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State Office of the Healthcare  
Advocate  
Connecticut

Citizen Action Group, Illinois  
Illinois

The Connecticut Oral Health  
Initiative, Inc.  
Connecticut

EverThrive Illinois  
Illinois

Universal Health Care Foundation of  
Connecticut  
Connecticut

Heartland Alliance  
Illinois

Southern New England Conference  
of the United Church of Christ  
Connecticut, Massachusetts, and  
Rhode Island

Legal Council for Health Justice  
Illinois

National Association of Social  
Workers Connecticut Chapter  
Connecticut

Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
Illinois

Florida Voices for Health  
Florida

Faith in Indiana  
Indiana

Organize Florida  
Florida

Hoosier Action  
Indiana

Georgians for a Healthy Future  
Georgia

Child and Family Policy Center  
Iowa

Idaho Voices for Children  
Idaho

Iowa Citizen Action Network  
Iowa

United Action for Idaho  
Idaho

Iowa Citizens for Community  
Improvement Action Fund  
Iowa

AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
Illinois

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas  
Kansas



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Kentucky Voices for Health  
Kentucky

Arab Community Center for  
Economic and Social Services  
(ACCESS)  
Michigan

Louisiana Budget Project  
Louisiana

Main Street Alliance Action Fund  
Minnesota

Consumers for Affordable Health  
Care  
Maine

TakeAction Minnesota  
Minnesota

Maine Equal Justice  
Maine

Mississippi Health Advocacy  
Program  
Mississippi

Maine People's Alliance  
Maine

Missouri Jobs with Justice  
Missouri

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative  
Maryland

Missouri Jobs with Justice Voter  
Action  
Missouri

Public Justice Center  
Maryland

Parents as Teachers National Center  
Missouri

Children's Mental Health Campaign  
Massachusetts

Big Sky 55+  
Montana

Disability Policy Consortium  
Massachusetts

Montana Women Vote  
Montana

Massachusetts Senior Action Council  
Massachusetts

Nebraska Appleseed  
Nebraska

Massachusetts Society for the  
Prevention of Cruelty to Children  
Massachusetts

Battle Born Progress  
Nevada

New Futures  
New Hampshire

Broome-Tioga Green Party  
New York



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New Hampshire Interfaith Action  
Fund, Inc  
New Hampshire

Callen-Lorde Community Health  
Center  
New York

Rights & Democracy New  
Hampshire  
New Hampshire

Campaign for New York Health  
New York

Legal Services of New Jersey  
New Jersey

Caring Professionals  
New York

New Jersey Citizen Action  
New Jersey

Center for Disability Rights  
New York

Salvation and Social Justice (SandSJ)  
New Jersey

Center for Elder Law & Justice  
New York

New Mexico Center in Law and  
Poverty  
New Mexico

Center for Frontline Retail  
New York

504 Democratic Club  
New York

Center for Independence of the  
Disabled  
New York

ADAPT Capital Region  
New York

Children's Defense Fund - New York  
New York

AIM Independent Living Center  
New York

Chinese-American Planning Council  
New York

ARISE Child and Family Service,  
Inc.  
New York

Citizen Action of New York  
New York

Brooklyn Center for Independence of  
the Disabled  
New York

Citizens' Committee for Children of  
New York  
New York



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Community Access  
New York

Horizons to Reach LLC  
New York

Community Service Society of New  
York  
New York

Indivisible Binghamton  
New York

Consumer Directed Personal  
Assistance Association of New York  
State  
New York

Interfaith Impact of NYS  
New York

Disabled in Action of Greater  
Syracuse Inc.  
New York

Justice & Peace Resource Center  
New York

Dutchess County Progressive Action  
Alliance  
New York

League of Women Voters of St.  
Lawrence County  
New York

Empire Justice Center  
New York

Long Island ADAPT  
New York

Family Health Centers at NYU  
Langone  
New York

Long Island Center for Independent  
Living, Inc.  
New York

Foundation for Integrative AIDS  
Research (FIAR)  
New York

Make the Road New York  
New York

Greater New York Labor- Religion  
Coalition  
New York

Medicaid Matters New York  
New York

Hand in Hand: The Domestic  
Employers Network  
New York

Metro New York Health Care for All  
New York



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New York Association of Psychiatric Rehabilitation Services (NYAPRS) New York	Rockland Independent Living Center, Inc. New York
New York Association on Independent Living New York	Southern Tier Independence Center New York
New York Caring Majority New York	Special Support Services New York
New York Immigration Coalition New York	Strong Economy For All Coalition New York
New York Legal Assistance Group New York	Sunset Park Family Health Council, Family Health Center New York
New York Self-Determination Coalition New York	Supporting our Youth and Adults Network New York
New York State Alliance for Retired Americans New York	Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. New York
New York StateWide Senior Action Council, Inc. New York	The Legal Aid Society (NYC) New York
Not Dead Yet New York	Trusted Choice Homecare New York
Putnam Progressives New York	Uptown Progressive Action New York
Ranni Law Firm New York	Urban Justice Center Mental Health Project New York





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New York State American Academy  
of Pediatrics  
New York

The Center for Community Solutions  
Ohio

Action North Carolina  
North Carolina

Universal Health Care Action  
Network of Ohio  
Ohio

NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina  
North Carolina

Oklahoma Policy Institute  
Oklahoma

NC Justice Center  
North Carolina

Main Street Alliance Action Fund  
Oregon

Advocates for Ohio's Future  
Ohio

Health Care for All Oregon  
Oregon

Black Women Rising  
Ohio

Community Legal Services of  
Philadelphia  
Pennsylvania

Children's Defense Fund-Ohio  
Ohio

Pennsylvania Budget and Policy  
Center  
Pennsylvania

Human Service Chamber of Franklin  
County  
Ohio

Pennsylvania Coalition for Oral  
Health  
Pennsylvania

Ohio Consumers for Health  
Coverage Coalition  
Ohio

The 99% Pennsylvania  
Pennsylvania

Ohio Federation of Teachers  
Ohio

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition  
Rhode Island

Ohio Poverty Law Center  
Ohio

South Carolina Appleseed Legal  
Justice Center  
South Carolina



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Tennessee Citizen Action  
Tennessee

Children At Risk  
Texas

Tennessee Health Care Campaign  
Tennessee

Church Women United Child Care  
Center  
Texas

Tennessee Justice Center  
Tennessee

City of Austin  
Texas

ADAPT of Texas  
Texas

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities  
Texas

American College of Obstetricians  
and Gynecologists - District XI  
Texas

Community Health Choice  
Texas

American Heart Association-Texas  
Texas

Deeds Not Words  
Texas

Anthem Strong Families  
Texas

DePelchin Children's Center  
Texas

AVANCE-Houston, Inc.  
Texas

Family Service  
Texas

Black Mamas ATX  
Texas

First3Years  
Texas

Center for Civic and Public Policy  
Improvement  
Texas

Harris County Department of  
Education  
Texas

Children's Defense Fund – Texas  
Texas

Heart of Texas Region MHMR ECI  
Texas

Indivisible Austin  
Texas

St. Paul Children's Services  
Texas



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Kiddie Academy of Lakes of  
Savannah  
Texas

Talitha Koum Institute  
Texas

LifeSteps Council on Alcohol &  
Drugs  
Texas

Texans Care for Children  
Texas

McLennan Community College  
Child Studies Lab School  
Texas

Texas Academy of Family  
Physicians  
Texas

Mental Health America of Greater  
Houston  
Texas

Texas AFL-CIO  
Texas

Metropolitan Health District  
Texas

Texas Association for the Education  
of Young Children  
Texas

North Texas Alliance to Reduce  
Teen Pregnancy  
Texas

Texas CASA  
Texas

Nurse-Family Partnership  
Texas

Texas Pediatric Society, the Texas  
Chapter of the AAP  
Texas

People's Community Clinic  
Texas

Texas Women's Healthcare Coalition  
Texas

Personal Attendant Coalition of  
Texas  
Texas

TexProtects  
Texas

Rupani Foundation  
Texas

The Pregnancy and Postpartum  
Health Alliance of Texas  
Texas



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United Way for Greater Austin  
Texas

Virginia Interfaith Center for Public  
Policy  
Virginia

United Way of Southern Cameron  
County  
Texas

Virginia Organizing  
Virginia

United Way of the Coastal Bend  
Texas

Community Health Network of  
Washington  
Washington

United Way of Waco-McLennan  
County  
Texas

Community Health Plan of  
Washington  
Washington

United Ways of Texas  
Texas

Economic Opportunity Institute  
Washington

Women's Health and Family  
Planning Association of Texas  
Texas

Health Care Is a Human Right WA  
Washington

Young Invincibles  
Texas

MLK County Working Families  
Party  
Washington

Utah Health Policy Project  
Utah

Northwest Health Law Advocates  
Washington

Rights & Democracy Vermont  
Vermont

Puget Sound Advocates for  
Retirement Action (PSARA)  
Washington

Voices for Vermont's Children  
Vermont

Washington Community Action  
Network  
Washington

New Virginia Majority  
Virginia

American Friends Service  
Committee  
West Virginia



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Mountain State Justice  
West Virginia

Commission on the Public's Health  
System  
National Organization

West Virginia Center on Budget and  
Policy  
West Virginia

March of Dimes  
National Organization

West Virginia FREE  
West Virginia

National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization

West Virginia Citizen Action Group  
West Virginia

Treatment Action Group  
National Organization

Wisconsin Alliance Women's Health  
Wisconsin

People's Action  
National Organization

Mountain State Justice  
West Virginia

National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization

Wisconsin Council of Churches  
Wisconsin