



July 11, 2022

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

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority 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
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

As Congress begins the July work period and pushes towards the August recess, I write on behalf of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) to urge immediate congressional action to extend enhanced advance premium tax credits (APTCs) set to expire at the end of the year and pass comprehensive drug pricing reform.

ACHP represents the nation's top-performing non-profit health organizations improving affordability and outcomes in the health care system. ACHP member companies are provider-aligned health plans that provide high-quality coverage and care to nearly 22 million Americans across 36 states and D.C.

Given economic pressures on working families, it is imperative for the House of Representatives and the Senate to move forward with legislation that extends the enhanced APTCs beyond 2022 and lowers the cost of prescription drugs. Passing these two important legislative priorities will protect access to affordable coverage and care for millions of individuals and families and move our country in the right direction to control the high cost of prescription drugs.

Time is running out to enact these sensible measures. Across the country, ACHP members have filed 2023 product offerings and pricing that consumers will select from during the November open enrollment period. Beginning in August, health plans will finalize those rates, sign contract agreements, develop marketing materials and send consumers notices regarding rate changes. If Congress does not act by the August recess, it could be too late to prevent consumer sticker shock, which can depress enrollment, especially among the healthy population, and drive-up premiums for all others. A recent report by the American Academy of Actuaries confirms recent enrollment gains would be reversed if the enhanced APTCs expire.¹

It is more important than ever that Congress ensure Americans have access to comprehensive and affordable coverage as the nation emerges from the pandemic and contends with the implications of high inflation. Compounding the impact of the APTC's expiring at year's end is the anticipated end to the public

¹ Drivers of 2023 Health Insurance Premium Changes, *American Academy of Actuaries*, June 2022
<https://www.actuary.org/sites/default/files/2022-06/PremiumDrivers2023.pdf>



health emergency and subsequent restart of state Medicaid redetermination, which could leave millions more Americans with no access to affordable coverage and care. Now is not the time to add to consumer uncertainty and force Americans to choose between feeding their families or buying health care.

We recognize the extraordinary issues facing Congress and appreciate your consideration of these recommendations that will directly improve the lives of Americans living in our communities. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Dan Jones, ACHP's VP of Federal Affairs at djones@achp.org or Tricia Barrentine Guay, ACHP's Director of Legislative Affairs at tguay@achp.org.

Sincerely,

Ceci Connolly
President & CEO

CC: The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Steny Hoyer
The Honorable Ron Wyden
The Honorable Mike Crapo
The Honorable Patty Murray
The Honorable Richard Burr
The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
The Honorable Richard Neal
The Honorable Kevin Brady