



April 25, 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 legislative push towards the Memorial Day recess, I write on behalf of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP) to urge congressional action to extend enhanced Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits set to expire at the end of the year, fund a federal reinsurance program, provide certainty to millions of Medicaid enrollees facing eligibility redeterminations and take meaningful steps to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

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.

According to a recent report from the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation at the Department of Health and Human Services, absent congressional action, 3.4 million Americans will lose coverage at the end of 2022 when the enhanced ACA tax credits expire, and another 8.9 million Americans will see their premiums more than double. The impact is compounded by the pending unwinding of the public health emergency and subsequent reinstatement of state Medicaid program eligibility redeterminations that could see 15 million Americans transition off Medicaid. It is more important than ever that Congress take steps to protect the affordable coverage and care that millions of individuals and families rely on.

As health plans submit their 2023 products and rates in the coming weeks, we are deeply concerned about the combined impact the potential expiration of the enhanced ACA tax credits and Medicaid redeterminations will have on individuals and families in communities across the country. We urge Congress to take action by extending the enhanced ACA tax credits beyond the end of 2022. We recommend Congress waive requirements in the Telephone Consumer Protection Act that prohibit marketing to consumers via phone or text, which will assist health plans and other stakeholders' ability to reach out to Medicaid enrollees at risk of losing coverage and help transition consumers to other forms of insurance. We also urge Congress to phase out the enhanced Federal Medical Assistance Percentage granted in the Families First Coronavirus Relief Act to ensure states are not abruptly disconnected from vital funding to support redeterminations.



To lower health care costs by investing in programs that reduce health care premiums and deductibles for all Americans, ACHP urges Congress to pass a federal reinsurance program which allows states to use the funds to directly lower premiums, out-of-pocket costs and deductibles for their state residents.

ACHP also urges Congress to address the root causes of the drug pricing problem. Years of tepid government oversight has allowed drug manufacturers to undermine competition, price new medications at exorbitant rates and increase prices with no recourse. Increasing inflation and consumer prices further reinforce that it is time for Congress to take action to lower the cost of prescription drugs. But simply capping out-of-pocket costs for specific drugs does not get at the root cause of high prescription drug cost.

ACHP encourages Congress to utilize the innovation of a competitive free market with appropriate government guardrails to address high launch prices and prevent manufacturers from shifting instead of reducing drug costs. ACHP supports providing the Secretary of HHS limited negotiation authority for the highest cost drugs without competition, penalizing unsubstantiated price increases, capping consumers' out-of-pocket cost in the Part D benefit, enacting stronger drug price transparency rules, expanding adoption and utilization of biosimilars and incentivizing the adoption of transparent, fee-based pharmacy benefit managers.

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](mailto:djones@achp.org) or Tricia Barrentine Guay, ACHP's Director of Legislative Affairs at [tguay@achp.org](mailto: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