

November 15, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

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

The undersigned national organizations, representing health care consumers and patients, providers, and other stakeholders, are writing to urge Congress to listen to the American people and pursue an agenda that ensures the best health and health care are equally accessible and affordable to all.

On November 6, voters from across the country and from all walks of life voted for high quality and affordable health care. They voted to fully protect people with preexisting conditions and to reject efforts by the Trump Administration and those in Congress who would repeal the Affordable Care Act and gut Medicaid and Medicare. Voters resoundingly supported expansion of the Medicaid program, which extends invaluable coverage to hundreds of thousands of low-income people.

During the months and weeks leading up to the midterm elections, we heard from health care consumers, patients, parents, caregivers, and some of the more than 100 million people in our country who live with a preexisting health condition and rely on consumer protections in the ACA or coverage of the Medicaid program. With their vote, they collectively demanded and mandated a new direction on health care – away from sabotage and dismantling of coverage and towards an agenda that will improve care, lower costs, and save people’s lives.

The message of the midterm elections was clear: The public wants families to have access to high quality health care that meaningfully covers those with preexisting conditions. Now is the time for members of Congress to turn their campaign rhetoric into action. During the next Congress, you will have the opportunity to push back on the administration’s sabotage efforts, including attempts to undermine health insurance markets, expand junk insurance, and erect barriers to Medicaid eligibility. You will have the opportunity to work in a bipartisan manner to drive solutions that improve coverage and lower health care costs.

We urge you to heed the calls of the American people and remember what is at stake by building a robust health care agenda that works for everyone. We stand ready to support you in your efforts.

Sincerely,

Families USA
Community Catalyst
AFSCME
American Medical Student Association (AMSA)
American Muslim Health Professionals

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations
Bailey House, Inc.
Black Womens Health Imperative
Center for Law and Social Policy
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Dental Health Project
Doctors For America
Every Child Matters
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ Equality
Health Care for America Now
HIV Medicine Association
Justice in Aging
Kids Forward
League of Women Voters of the United States
NAACP
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Consumers League
National Disability Rights Network
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Women's Health Network
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice
NMAC
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Public Citizen
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
Religious Institute
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the United States (SIECUS)
Smart Policy Works
The AIDS Institute
The Aliveness Project
The Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Union for Reform Judaism
Universal Health Care Action Network
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Young Invincibles

Cc: The Honorable John Thune, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Dick Durbin, U.S. Senate
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, U.S. House of Representatives
The Honorable Steny Hoyer, U.S. House of Representatives