April 22, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, and Members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives:

On behalf of millions of patients and consumers who face serious, acute, and chronic health conditions, our 44 organizations write to strongly urge you to exclude any additional funding cuts or policies that would further impact Medicaid and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) in any future reconciliation package. H.R. 1 made sweeping cuts to Medicaid and ACA Marketplace coverage, impacting millions of patients and consumers across the United States. As the country grapples with a healthcare affordability crisis, it is essential that Congress take steps to mitigate the impacts of these cuts and strengthen our systems of care, not further jeopardize patients' ability to seek, secure, and afford lifesaving care.

In March of 2017, our organizations came together to form the Partnership to Protect Coverage (PPC). Together, we agreed upon three overarching principles to guide any work to reform and improve the nation's healthcare system. These principles state that: (1) healthcare should be accessible, meaning that coverage should be easy to understand and not pose a barrier to care; (2) healthcare should be affordable, enabling patients to access the treatments they need to live healthy and productive lives; and (3) healthcare must be adequate, meaning healthcare coverage should cover treatments patients need.

Access to high-quality, affordable health insurance is essential to maintaining and improving the health of everyone living in the United States. Our organizations stress that any changes to existing law must not jeopardize the healthcare coverage that Americans currently have through employers, the private market, Medicare, or Medicaid. Further, patients and consumers should be able to keep their existing high-quality coverage, and any policy should not undermine quality or affordability.

We are therefore highly concerned about statements made by members of Congress supporting further cuts to bedrock healthcare programs through reconciliation, especially in the wake of last summer's devastating healthcare cuts enacted by H.R. 1 and Congress's failure to extend the Enhanced Advanced Premium Tax Credits (eAPTC).

Medicaid has always been a highly effective and lean program ensuring patients receive the services they need at a lower cost per service compared to other public and private health insurance programs. Despite the public's favorable view of Medicaid and its important role to communities and families, Congress imposed deep reductions to the program.[i] Within ten years more than 10.3 million people are likely to lose Medicaid coverage,[ii] with losses disproportionately affecting rural populations.[iii] H.R. 1 also enacted Medicaid policies that will further exacerbate hardships for low-income people, including those with serious and chronic diseases. It is imperative that Congress does not extract any more from this essential program.

Additionally, Congress's failure to reauthorize the ACA's eAPTCs has shocked the healthcare system, and deeply disrupted patients' budgets and lives. In the wake of increased premiums this open enrollment, initial reporting shows a 17 to 26% reduction in ACA marketplace enrollment with those numbers still expected to rise as consumers continue to walk away from high-quality marketplace coverage.[iv] For those who stayed on the marketplace, many patients

made the difficult decisions to select plans that cover fewer services and provide less expansive coverage, putting them at risk should a medical emergency or new diagnosis arise.[v]

Patients cannot afford further uncertainty. These programs are literal lifelines for the millions of patients, their families, caregivers, and survivors who rely on coverage to manage their health conditions or care for those that do. Our organizations, therefore, urge Congress to oppose any policies that would further destabilize Medicaid and ACA Marketplace coverage. If you have any questions or would like to discuss our comments further, please contact Katie Berge, Senior Director of Federal Government Affairs at katie.berge@bloodcancerunited.org, and Ashleigh Tharp, Associate Vice President of Federal Government Relations at the National Multiple Sclerosis Society at ashleigh.tharp@nmss.org.

Sincerely,

AiArthritis
Alpha-1 Foundation
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Diabetes Association
American Heart Association
American Kidney Fund
American Lung Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Autoimmune Association
Blood Cancer United
Cancer Nation
Cancer Support Community
CancerCare
Coalition for Hemophilia B
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Diabetes Patient Advocacy Coalition
Epilepsy Foundation of America
EveryLife Foundation for Rare Diseases
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Legal Action Center
Lupus Foundation of America
Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Bleeding Disorders Foundation
National Health Council
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, Inc.
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
WomenHeart
ZERO Prostate Cancer

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[i] https://www.kff.org/medicaid/7-charts-about-public-opinion-on-medicaid/
[ii] https://www.kff.org/medicaid/allocating-cbos-estimates-of-federal-medicaid-spending-reductions-across-the-states-enacted-reconciliation-package/
[iii] https://www.ruralhealth.us/nationalruralhealth/media/documents/advocacy/2025/obbb-impacts-on-rural-communities_06-20-25-final_v3-(002).pdf
[iv] https://www.wakely.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Who-Paid-and-Who-Stayed-%E2%80%93-Early-2026-Enrollment-Trends-in-the-Individual-Market.pdf
[v] https://www.wakely.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Who-Paid-and-Who-Stayed-%E2%80%93-Early-2026-Enrollment-Trends-in-the-Individual-Market.pdf