

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 21, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
1236 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
2468 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Majority Leader McConnell, and Minority Leader Schumer,

We are concerned about reports that there are efforts to undermine the maintenance of effort (MOE) provisions included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (Families First) in the next relief package. We greatly appreciate your fight to include these critical provisions in the prior legislation and write to strongly urge you that no modifications be made in future legislation to ensure our neighbors are able to continue their Medicaid coverage in these trying times.

Modifying or repealing the MOE requirements would be an invitation for our states to provide even less assistance to our most vulnerable neighbors, especially in states that already have restrictive Medicaid programs. It would be extremely harmful to millions of children, seniors, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities and others who rely on Medicaid across the country.

States are required to balance their budgets even in a recession; many may turn to the Medicaid and CHIP rolls to save money, kicking people out of the programs and severely restricting eligibility, while also possibly limiting the benefits offered. During past recessions, Governors have exerted pressure to eliminate MOE requirements, acknowledging that they wanted to cut eligibility. Any modification to the strong MOE provisions in Families First put the entire Medicaid protection at risk.

With nearly 30 million uninsured patients prior to this crisis and millions filing for unemployment each week across the country, it is vital that we protect the Medicaid program from destructive cuts. We can ill afford to have even more people without coverage at a time when it is essential.

The health of our most vulnerable neighbors and the broader public health are at stake. We urge you respectfully, but in the strongest possible terms, to protect the MOE requirements to ensure our neighbors are able to keep the health coverage they need.

Sincerely,

Lloyd Doggett  
Raul Grijalva  
Charlie Crist  
Steve Cohen

Kathy Castor  
Ann Kirkpatrick  
Ruben Gallego  
Jan Schakowsky

Lucy McBath  
Peter DeFazio  
Darren Soto  
Marcy Kaptur

Ted Deutch  
Henry Cuellar  
Al Green  
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Veronica Escobar  
Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Joaquin Castro  
Vicente Gonzalez  
Marc Veasey  
Filemon Vela  
Colin Allred  
Lizzie Fletcher  
Tim Ryan  
Terri A. Sewell  
Debbie Dingell  
Val B. Demings  
Judy Chu  
Daniel T. Kildee  
Bennie G. Thompson  
Betty McCollum  
Jamie Raskin  
Susan A. Davis  
Alcee L. Hastings  
Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Joyce Beatty  
Rosa DeLauro  
André Carson  
Kendra S. Horn  
Jim Cooper  
Pramila Jayapal  
Susan Wild  
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Donna E. Shalala  
Stephanie Murphy  
John Lewis  
Danny K. Davis  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Frederica S. Wilson  
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Ayanna Pressley  
David Scott  
Ilhan Omar  
David Trone  
Barbara Lee  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Chris Pappas  
Chellie Pingree  
Madeleine Dean

Mike Thompson  
Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Debbie Wasserman Schultz  
Maxine Waters  
Ted W. Lieu  
Jahana Hayes  
Sean Casten  
Dina Titus  
G.K. Butterfield  
Jerrold Nadler  
TJ Cox  
James P. McGovern  
Gerald E. Connolly  
Bobby L. Rush  
Jackie Speier  
Tom O'Halleran  
Jason Crow  
Ro Khanna  
Bill Foster  
Stephen F. Lynch  
Dwight Evans  
Adam Smith  
Anthony G. Brown  
Rashida Tlaib  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Earl Blumenauer  
Julia Brownley  
John P. Sarbanes  
Andy Levin  
Linda T. Sánchez  
Brenda L. Lawrence  
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Jimmy Gomez  
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Robin L. Kelly  
Ann McLane Kuster  
David N. Cicilline

Grace F. Napolitano  
Abby Finkenauer  
Paul D. Tonko  
Diana DeGette  
John B. Larson  
Steven Horsford  
Jimmy Panetta  
Lucille Roybal-Allard  
A. Donald McEachin  
Alan Lowenthal  
Doris Matsui  
Juan Vargas  
Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Emanuel Cleaver, II  
Mark Takano  
Jared Huffman  
Xochitl Torres Small  
Angie Craig  
Conor Lamb  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
Bill Keating  
David E. Price  
Albio Sires  
Jerry McNerney  
Katherine Clark  
Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
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Matt Cartwright  
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Sean Patrick Maloney  
Lauren Underwood  
Joe Courtney  
Zoe Lofgren  
Eric Swalwell  
Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Adam Schiff  
Elaine G. Luria  
Tulsi Gabbard