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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4329**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION  
AND CITIZENSHIP  
TASK FORCE ON POVERTY AND OPPORTUNITY  
VICE CHAIR ON URBAN POVERTY

March 21, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
S-230, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader, United States Senate  
S-220, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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

As both chambers continue work on additional measures to protect the health and economic security of Americans caused by COVID-19, we write to urge you to consider requiring the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to temporarily suspend the 2-year waiting period for Medicare coverage for individuals with Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI).

Research has long demonstrated that individuals with SSDI in the 2-year waiting period often forego medical treatments, stop adhering to prescription drugs and other medications, and further compromise their health care.

While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) increased options for coverage for Americans under 65, including those with SSDI in the Medicare waiting period, variations across states in their marketplace plans and Medicaid programs have meant that many individuals with disabilities are left without affordable care.

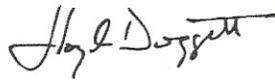
Ensuring those with SSDI can access Medicare coverage right away is critical not only for reducing barriers to care, but also for our health care providers and states by reducing the burden on state Medicaid programs and uncompensated care across acute-care settings at a time when they are struggling with capacity. Eliminating the 2-year period for those with SSDI until the current COVID-19 crisis is fully behind us is an important component of any meaningful package of solutions to the pandemic.

We look forward to working with you to ensure the health and economic well-being of American families and our health care providers during this critical time. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



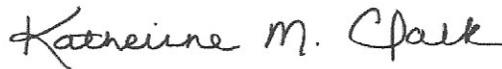
Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress



Lloyd Doggett  
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse  
Member of Congress



Katherine M. Clark  
Member of Congress



Joaquin Castro  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Jesus G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress