



July 10, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Zients
Chief of Staff
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Neera Tanden
Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. Zients and Ms. Tanden:

Our organizations, representing hundreds of millions of patients and consumers facing serious, acute and chronic health conditions across the country, urge this Administration to protect access to care in the Medicaid program by taking immediate action to pause redeterminations in states where individuals are overwhelmingly losing coverage for procedural reasons.

Medicaid provides quality, affordable healthcare coverage for low-income children, adults, pregnant individuals, people with disabilities, and seniors. Our organizations are committed to helping the people we represent navigate the unwinding of the continuous coverage requirements to ensure that those who are currently enrolled in Medicaid maintain their coverage if eligible or transition to other forms of quality, affordable care. We know that you share our goal of minimizing the number of individuals who become uninsured during this process.

While the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services has yet to publicly release the data received from states about this process, we are deeply concerned about initial unwinding data from multiple states showing that the vast majority of people have lost coverage because of administrative issues. Based on

available data collected from the Kaiser Family Foundation, as of July 5, at least 1.6 million people have lost their Medicaid coverage and 71% of people who lost their coverage did so because individuals could not be located, failure to respond to notices, and other procedural issues.¹ These numbers suggest serious problems with notices and renewal forms getting to enrollees, inadequate public education campaigns, and insufficient consumer support for individuals trying to renew their coverage. Press reports confirm these same issues.²

As you know, under the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023, the Secretary of Health and Human Services can require corrective action plans for states that do not meet federal requirements for redeterminations and suspend terminations for procedural reasons and impose civil monetary penalties if those actions plans are not submitted or implemented. On May 31, 2023, many of our organizations wrote to Secretary Becerra asking him to use this authority to immediately pause redeterminations in states with high procedural termination rates.³

Since that time, the number of states reporting alarming data has only grown, as have our concerns about coverage losses amongst the people we represent. Patients with serious and chronic health conditions cannot afford gaps in their access to care while states continue to resolve these major issues. Our organizations urge the Administration to use all of the enforcement tools at its disposal, per Congress's design, and to begin those processes, where appropriate, as soon as possible. It is critical that this Administration make clear that it has the authority to take action and immediately uses this authority to protect patients' access to care, sending a strong message to all states about the importance of this matter.

This Administration has made significant progress in increasing access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage over the past three years and unless significant action is taken, the unwinding process could reverse that progress. Our organizations once again urge the Administration to take immediate action to protect Medicaid coverage for patients in states with high procedural termination rates.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network
American Heart Association
American Lung Association
American Kidney Fund
ALS Association
Arthritis Foundation
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
CancerCare
Cancer Support Community
Child Neurology Foundation
Chronic Disease Coalition
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)
Hemophilia Federation of America
Immune Deficiency Foundation
Lupus Foundation of America

Lutheran Services in America
March of Dimes
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
National Eczema Association
National Health Council
National Hemophilia Foundation
National Kidney Foundation
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization for Rare Disorders
National Patient Advocate Foundation
National Psoriasis Foundation
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Susan G. Komen
The AIDS Institute
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

¹ Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid Enrollment and Unwinding Tracker, Updated July 5, 2023. Available at: <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-enrollment-and-unwinding-tracker/>

² <https://www.abccactionnews.com/news/state/florida-mom-left-with-no-answers-on-medicaid-as-her-child-waits-for-treatment>; <https://www.orlandosentinel.com/2023/06/28/health-florida-medicaid-terminates-medically-needy-kids/>; <https://www.kcur.org/news/2023-06-09/red-tape-costing-45-000-plus-medicaid-coverage-in-kansas-state-officials-blame-slow-mail>

³ Letter to Secretary Becerra on Medicaid Unwinding, May 31, 2023. Available at: <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/a27a1334-5009-4189-9622-8dc8a43ba1d1/PPC-Medicaid-Unwinding-Letter-to-CMS-FINAL.pdf>