



March 6, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chair
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin Brady
Chair
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Energy and Commerce Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member
Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Brady, Ranking Members Pallone and Neal:

We are writing on behalf of the HIV Health Care Access Working Group to **express deep concerns that sweeping changes to healthcare programs that are critical to individuals living with HIV are being considered behind closed doors, without stakeholder input and at an accelerated pace.** In particular, the Medicaid program provides healthcare coverage to 40% of people with HIV in care. While our letter focuses on the Medicaid program, we also are equally concerned how the proposal to repeal key Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provisions are being considered without transparency or stakeholder input.

Based on the outline of the House leadership's replacement bill released in mid-February, the policy changes that are under consideration would fundamentally alter the Medicaid program and seriously threaten access to lifesaving HIV care and treatment. Previous analyses of per capita cap and/or block grant funding for the Medicaid program suggest both would lead to a significant decline in resources to support the program. This is likely to result in a loss of coverage and services for individuals with HIV and millions of other low income individuals with chronic illnesses and diseases whose access to healthcare and lives depend on this vital program. Formal analysis and comment by the Congressional Budget Office, the Medicaid and CHIP Payment Access Commission and the Government Accountability Office is critical to evaluate how the 70 million Americans who rely on this program stand to be affected by the proposed changes.

The magnitude of the changes being considered to a program that covers the most medically vulnerable Americans demands a deliberative and transparent process that includes public hearings, open comment periods and meetings with stakeholders, including beneficiaries and their providers. We strongly **urge the House Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means Committees to please consider the health of millions of Americans, including hundreds of thousands living with HIV, and to proceed cautiously, deliberately and with transparency as reconciliation proposals are advanced.**

Respectfully submitted,

AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Action Committee of MA
AIDS Alliance for Women, Infants, Children, Youth & Families
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
The AIDS Institute
AIDS Project Los Angeles
AIDS United
American Academy of HIV Medicine
APLA Health
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Community Access National Network
Communities Advocating Emergency AIDS Relief (CAEAR) Coalition
Georgia AIDS Coalition

HIV Health Care Access Working Group

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Harlem United
Harm Reduction Coalition
HealthHIV
HIV Medicine Association
Housing Works
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Moveable Feast
National Alliance of State and Territorial AIDS Directors
National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable
The National Working Positive Coalition
NMAC
Out2Enroll
Project Inform
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Southern AIDS Coalition
South Carolina Campaign to End AIDS
Treatment Access Expansion Project
Treatment Action Group
VillageCare

cc: The Honorable Speaker Paul Ryan
The Honorable Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi
The Honorable Majority Leader Mitch McConnell
The Honorable Minority Leader Charles Schumer
The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee
The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member, Senate Finance Committee