



March 2, 2017

**Oppose Repeal of the Affordable Care Act and  
Medicaid Block Grants/Per Capita Caps and the Defunding of Planned  
Parenthood**

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, the National Health Law Program, the National Partnership for Women and Families and the undersigned 84 organizations, we urge you to oppose any attempt to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA); transform Medicaid into a block grant or per capita cap; and defund Planned Parenthood health centers.

Repealing the ACA and restructuring the financing and coverage of Medicaid would leave all people in the United States, particularly people of color and underserved populations, significantly worse off than under current law. The ACA and Medicaid are critical sources of health coverage for America's traditionally underserved communities, which our organizations represent. This includes individuals and families living in poverty, people of color, women, immigrants, LGBTQ individuals, individuals with disabilities, seniors, and individuals with limited English proficiency.

The ACA has reduced the number of people without insurance to historic lows, including a reduction of 39 percent of the lowest income individuals.<sup>i</sup> The gains are particularly noteworthy for Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans. Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have seen the largest gains in coverage. The nation and our communities cannot afford to go back to a time when they did not have access to comprehensive, affordable coverage. Further, due to the intersectionality between factors, such as race and disability or sexual orientation and uninsurance, many individuals may face additional discrimination and barriers to obtaining coverage. Proposals to replace the ACA with high-risk pools, Health Savings Accounts, or "cheaper" insurance plans that do not offer comprehensive, affordable benefits are unacceptable.

Medicaid is also critically important as it insures one of every five individuals in the United States and one of every three children. Medicaid coverage, including the Medicaid expansion, is particularly critical for underserved individuals and especially people of color, because they are more likely to be living with certain chronic health conditions, such as diabetes, which require ongoing screening and services. People of color represent 58 percent of non-elderly Medicaid enrollees.<sup>ii</sup> According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, African-Americans comprise 22 percent of Medicaid enrollment, and Hispanics comprise 25 percent.<sup>iii</sup> They are more likely than White non-Hispanics to lack insurance coverage and are more likely to live in families with low incomes and fall in the Medicaid gap.<sup>iv</sup> As a result, the lack of expansion disproportionately affects these communities as well as women, who also make up the majority of poor uninsured adults in states that did not expand Medicaid.

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National Partnership for  
Women & Families

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Despite the common myth that all low-income people could enroll in Medicaid, the Medicaid program has only been available to certain categories of individuals. (e.g., children, pregnant women, people who were aged, blind, or had disabilities) and had little to no savings or assets. Parents of children and childless adults were often excluded from Medicaid or only the lowest income individuals in these categories were eligible. For example, the Medicaid expansion greatly expanded coverage for LGTBTQ individuals who previously did not fit into a traditional Medicaid eligibility category.

The proposal to block all Medicaid patients from receiving care at Planned Parenthood health centers will have a disproportionate effect on poor families and people of color and could further jeopardize women's access to preventive health care. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that 390,000 women would lose access and up to 650,000 could face reduced access to preventive health care within a year if Congress were to block all Medicaid patients from seeking care at a Planned Parenthood health center.<sup>v</sup>

We urge you to oppose any repeal of the Affordable Care Act, attempts to convert Medicaid into a block grant or per capita caps, and any attempts to defund Planned Parenthood. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Leadership Conference Health Care Task Force Co-chairs Mark Savage at the National Partnership for Women & Families ([msavage@nationalpartnership.org](mailto:msavage@nationalpartnership.org)) and Mara Youdelman at the National Health Law Program ([yodelman@healthlaw.org](mailto:yodelman@healthlaw.org)), or Corrine Yu at The Leadership Conference ([yu@civilrights.org](mailto:yu@civilrights.org)).

Sincerely,

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
National Health Law Program (NHeLP)  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
AAPCHO  
AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta  
ALSO Youth, Inc  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Teachers  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian Services In Action  
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center  
Campaign for America's Future  
Center for Public Interest Law  
CenterLink: The Community of LGBT Centers  
Children's Advocacy Institute  
CommonHealth ACTION  
Community Catalyst  
Disability Policy Consortium  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund  
Equality Federation

Family Equality Council  
FORGE, Inc.  
Forward Together  
Gay Alliance  
GLBT Community Center of Colorado  
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBT Equality  
GSA Network  
HealthHIV  
Healthy Teen Network  
Human Rights Campaign  
Lambda Legal  
LGBT Center of Raleigh  
Los Angeles LGBT Center  
Medicare Rights Center  
Movement Advancement Project  
NAACP  
NAPAFASA  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Association of Counsel for Children  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Coalition for LGBT Health  
National Council of Asian Pacific Islander Physicians  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Health Care for the Homeless Council  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
New Mexico Primary Care Training Consortium  
NOELA Community Health Center  
Out2Enroll  
OutFront Kalamazoo (formerly KGLRC)  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Prevention Institute  
RAD Remedy  
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need  
Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice  
Religious Institute  
Sacramento LGBT Community Center  
Senior Community Outreach Services, Inc.  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
SIECUS  
Southern HIV/AIDS Strategy Initiative

Southwest Center for Health Innovation  
StandUp For Kids  
The AIDS Institute  
The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center  
The National Viral Hepatitis Roundtable  
The Praxis Project  
Trans United  
Transition Associates, Inc.  
Treatment Access Expansion Project  
Universal Health Care Foundation of CT  
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity  
Women's Action Movement  
Women's Action Network  
Young Invincibles  
Zeitouna

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<sup>i</sup> U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Affordable Care Act Has Led to Historic, Widespread Increase in Health Insurance Coverage, pp. 2, 4 (Sept. 29, 2016), available at <https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/207946/ACAHistoricIncreaseCoverage.pdf>.

<sup>ii</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, Medicaid Coverage Rates for the Nonelderly by Race/Ethnicity: 2015, available at <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/rate-by-raceethnicity-3/?currentTimeframe=0>.

<sup>iii</sup> Kaiser Health Foundation, Medicaid Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity, available at <http://kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/medicaid-enrollment-by-raceethnicity/>.

<sup>iv</sup> Kaiser Family Foundation, The Coverage Gap: Uninsured Poor Adults in States that Do Not Expand Medicaid, <http://kff.org/uninsured/issue-brief/the-coverage-gap-uninsured-poor-adults-in-states-that-do-not-expand-medicaid/>

<sup>v</sup> Figures extrapolated from Congressional Budget Office, Estimate: H.R. 3134 Defund Planned Parenthood Act of 2015 (Sept. 16, 2015), available at <https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/114th-congress-2015-2016/costestimate/hr3134.pdf>