

Congress of the United States
Washington, D.C. 20515

October 21, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We, as members of the Congressional Black Caucus, write to respectfully request that closing the Medicaid coverage gap and providing a fix for non-expansion states be done in a meaningful way in the *Build Back Better Act*. It is imperative that the coverage gap remain a priority and should be addressed in a meaningful way to provide those effected with comprehensive and stable coverage. We cannot continue to exacerbate racial inequities in health by not sufficiently closing the coverage gap.

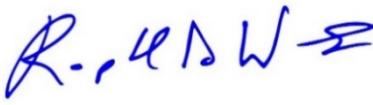
Closing the coverage gap and covering those who would otherwise be eligible for Medicaid would provide comprehensive, affordable health care to 4.4 million low-income Americans, 60 percent of whom are individuals of color.¹ Underserved communities, communities of color, and communities who have suffered the most during the COVID-19 pandemic, must finally be prioritized. This is the most effective policy to reduce racial and ethnic health disparities and would be a major step towards decreasing the high rates of uninsured Americans in non-expansion states. By providing support to individuals living in non-expansion states, we are demonstrating a commitment to advancing racial equity.

We do not believe that access to health coverage should be dependent on where you live or the political or partisan decisions of state politicians. People should not be penalized for living in states that continue to deny them Medicaid. We must fulfill the promise we made 11 years ago when we passed the ACA – that all Americans in all 50 states will be able to access health coverage. We cannot continue to allow Americans with low incomes to suffer any longer just because they live in a state that has refused to expand Medicaid for political reasons at the cost of residents' lives and taxpayer dollars. People of color are the ones who gave us the opportunity to build back better and it is our responsibility to deliver for them.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we stand ready to work with you so we can finally fulfill our promise to the American people of providing quality, affordable coverage to everyone.

¹<https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2021/05/marketplace-pulse-lets-close-the-coverage-gap.html>

Sincerely,



Reverend Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

/s/

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.
Member of Congress

/s/

Colin Allred
Member of Congress

/s/

Karen Bass
Member of Congress

/s/

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

/s/

Andre' Carson
Member of Congress

/s/

Emanuel Cleaver, II
Member of Congress

/s/

James E. Clyburn
Member of Congress

/s/

Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/

Val Butler Demings
Member of Congress

/s/

Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress

/s/

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/

Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/

Eddie Bernice Johnson
Member of Congress

/s/

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/

Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

/s/

Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress

/s/
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress

/s/
Bennie Thompson
Member of Congress

/s/
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress

/s/
Lauren Underwood
Member of Congress

/s/
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress