

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 15, 2025

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

Dear Speaker Johnson,

As Members representing millions of people who rely on Medicaid, we write with deep concern regarding the House Republican budget reconciliation bill, which seeks to enact massive tax cuts for billionaires at the expense of providing lifesaving health care for women and families across our country. In every Congressional District, constituents and health care providers rely on Medicaid coverage to pay for a wide range of care, including reproductive health care. This coverage not only provides preventive care and saves lives, it also allows people to make decisions about how they want to plan for their futures and manage their reproductive health. We discourage you from bringing this budget reconciliation bill to the House Floor and urge you to instead think of the millions of families and individuals who rely on Medicaid coverage for access to essential health care, including reproductive health care, and prevent any cuts or additional restrictions that could impact the Medicaid program.

Since its implementation, Medicaid has opened the door for millions of people and families to have access to reproductive health care. This includes access to family planning services like birth control and pregnancy care, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, treatment for diseases like breast and cervical cancer, and postpartum care. One in three people rely on Medicaid for health coverage and Medicaid is the largest payer for pregnancy-related care, covering four in ten births.¹² This coverage is especially important for helping to reduce health disparities among people of color who face systemic barriers to access and disproportionately rely on Medicaid for health care coverage. This includes American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) and Black women who are over 3 times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes than white women. Additionally, Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI), Latina women, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ people also experience persistent disparities in maternal and reproductive health outcomes.³

We have heard from our communities, and we know Medicaid is a lifeline for so many people and families that otherwise would not be able to afford and receive essential healthcare. It should come as no surprise that Medicaid expansion has had a measurable impact on reducing maternal and infant mortality, particularly among Black and Hispanic women and babies.⁴ Nearly every state has elected to provide 12 months of postpartum coverage to moms enrolled in Medicaid at the time of delivery—improving access to care for these families.⁵

¹ <https://www.macpac.gov/news/macpac-releases-2024-edition-of-macstats-medicaid-and-chip-data-book/>

² <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-postpartum-coverage-extension-tracker/>

³ <https://www.kff.org/racial-equity-and-health-policy/issue-brief/racial-disparities-in-maternal-and-infant-health-current-status-and-efforts-to-address-them/>; <https://fortune.com/well/article/black-women-maternal-mortality-rate-increase/>; <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/state-indicator/people-0-64-medicaid-rate-byraceethnicity/?currentTimeframe=0&sortModel=%7B%22colId%22:%22Location%22,%22sort%22:%22asc%22%7D>; <https://www.guttmacher.org/article/2020/11/not-debate-lgbtq-people-need-and-deserve-tailored-sexual-and-reproductive-health>

⁴ <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/closing-the-coverage-gap-would-improve-black-maternal-health>.

⁵ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/medicaid-postpartum-coverage-extension-tracker/>

This increased access is, in states that have adopted Medicaid expansion, supported by the enhanced federal matching rate.

Any cuts to Medicaid would present a major setback on the progress we have made in reducing maternal and infant mortality. This includes the proposed work reporting requirements, which are ineffective at addressing workforce shortages, causing people to lose coverage and are simply cuts by another name. Without this coverage, disparities in maternal health care will increase, adverse health outcomes will rise, preventable deaths will increase, and access to comprehensive care before, during, and after pregnancy will become cost prohibitive for many people and families. The depth of harm that would be caused by cuts to this vital health program is staggering and would include low-income families, legal residents, people of color, those living with disabilities, safety-net hospitals, and community health centers, among others.

The economic harm of cutting Medicaid is also profound. Medicaid enables people to stay in the workforce, care for their families, and avoid medical debt. Research has shown that restrictions on reproductive health care limit educational and career opportunities and increase financial instability for low-income families.⁶ These workers often lack access to employer-provided benefits and rely on Medicaid for their essential health care. Gutting Medicaid would force many people to make impossible decisions between affording care, housing, food, or transportation—and would deepen cycles of poverty across generations.

As it stands, the budget reconciliation bill cuts health care spending by at least \$715 billion and will leave 13.7 million people uninsured, mostly from cuts to the Medicaid program which provides health care coverage for more than 72 million people.⁷ This includes imposing work reporting requirements that make Americans navigate arduous paperwork as frequently as monthly just to keep their health coverage, onerous eligibility checks, limitations on how states can fund their Medicaid programs, and “defunding” Planned Parenthood health centers, which provide essential health care services for more than 2 million patients per year. In fact, the CBO preliminary report found that “defunding” Planned Parenthood would actually increase the deficit by \$300 million.⁸ Millions of people and health care providers rely on Medicaid; these cuts and attacks will have a far reaching impact on access to health care for all of our constituents.⁹

There is nothing wasteful about ensuring people have access to reproductive health care and improving maternal and infant health outcomes. The blueprint laid out in this budget reconciliation bill puts this essential health care coverage and our public health system at risk, giving billionaires a tax cut at the expense of women and families who need care the most. As it stands, the current framework would amount to the single largest cut to Medicaid in its 60 year history. We urge you to prevent any cuts or additional restrictions to the Medicaid program and prioritize the continued access to lifesaving health care for millions over the interests of billionaires.


Sincerely,

⁶ <https://iwpr.org/the-economic-fallout-of-reproductive-rights-restrictions-on-womens-futures/>

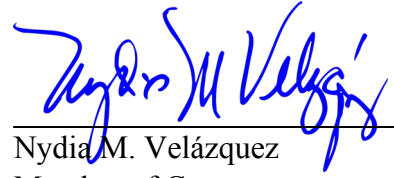
⁷ <https://democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/democrats-energycommerce.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/cbo-emails-re-e%26c-reconciliation-scores-may-11%2C-2025.pdf>

⁸ https://d1dth6e84htgma.cloudfront.net/E_and_C_Markup_Subtitle_D_Part_I_5_12_25_4628d60c2a.pdf

⁹ <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/program-information/medicaid-and-chip-enrollment-data/report-highlights>



Emilia Strong Sykes
Member of Congress



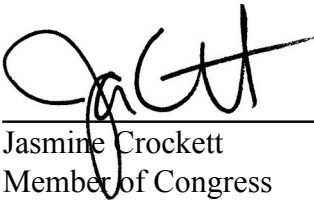
Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



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



Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress




Jasmine Crockett
Member of Congress



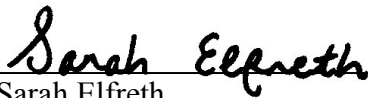
Gwen S. Moore
Member of Congress



Derek T. Tran
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



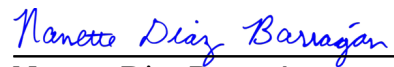
Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



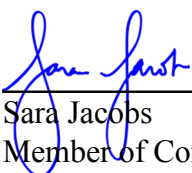
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



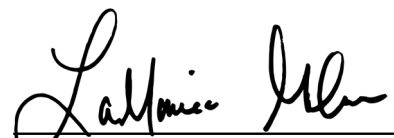
Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



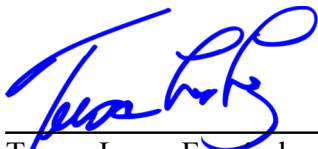
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



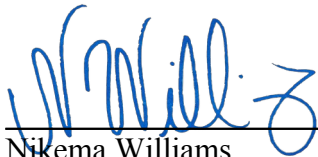
Shontel M. Brown
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



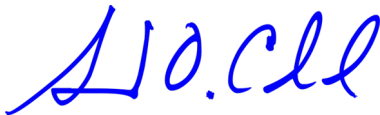
Teresa Leger Fernandez
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



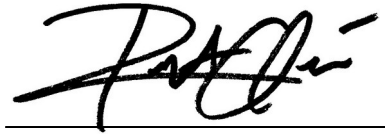
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



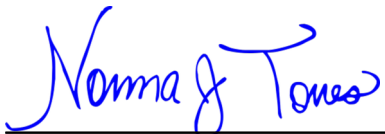
Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



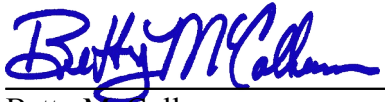
Robert Garcia
Member of Congress



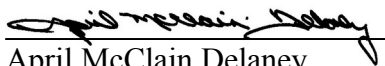
Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress



Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



April McClain Delaney
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson
Member of Congress



Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress



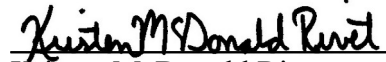
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



Angie Craig
Member of Congress



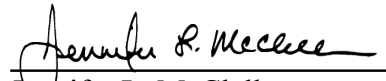
Valerie P. Foushee
Member of Congress



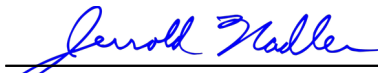
Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



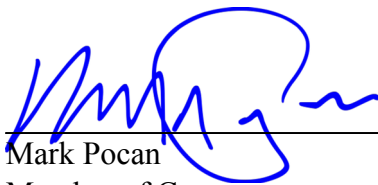
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
Member of Congress



John Garamendi
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



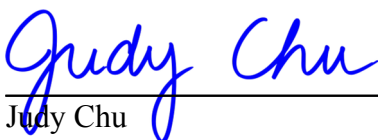
Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



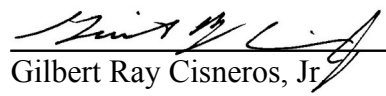
Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress



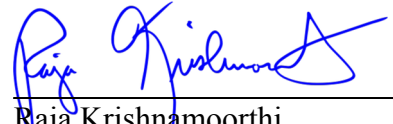
Judy Chu
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress



Wesley Bell
Member of Congress



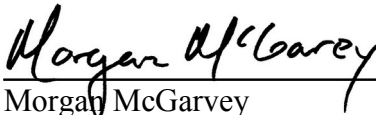
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



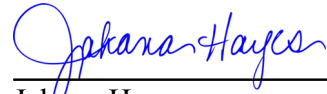
Frederica S. Wilson
Member of Congress



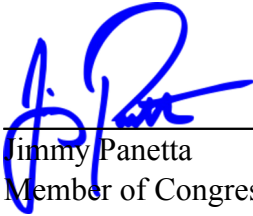
Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey
Member of Congress



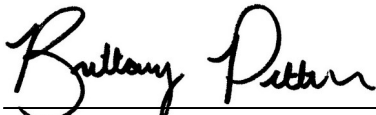
Jahana Hayes
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



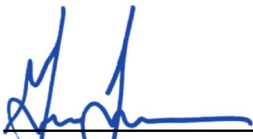
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



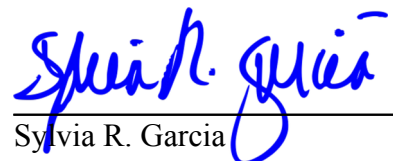
Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



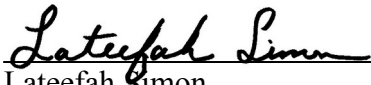
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Greg Landsman
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress



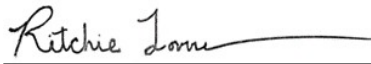
Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress



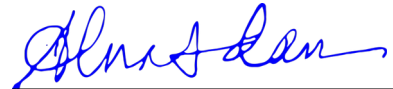
Dan Goldman
Member of Congress



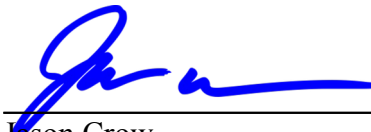
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



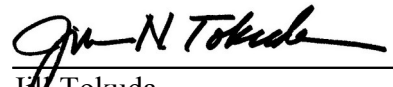
Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress



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



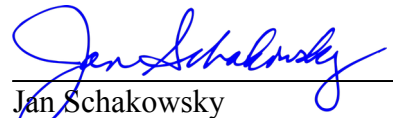
Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



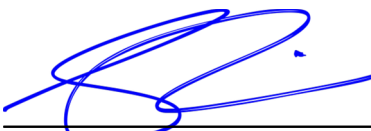
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



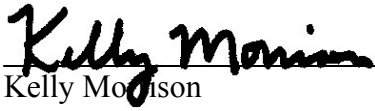
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Sharice L. Davids
Member of Congress



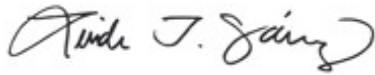
Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Kelly Morrison
Member of Congress



Dave Min
Member of Congress



Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress