July 10, 2023

The Honorable Jeff Zients  Neera Tanden
Chief of Staff  Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy
The White House  The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500  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. 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.

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.

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  Lutheran Services in America
American Heart Association  March of Dimes
American Lung Association  Muscular Dystrophy Association
American Kidney Fund  National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)
ALS Association  National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship
Arthritis Foundation  National Eczema Association
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  National Health Council
CancerCare  National Hemophilia Foundation
Cancer Support Community  National Kidney Foundation
Child Neurology Foundation  National Multiple Sclerosis Society
Chronic Disease Coalition  National Organization for Rare Disorders
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation  National Patient Advocate Foundation
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  National Psoriasis Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation  Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research (FSR)  Susan G. Komen
Hemophilia Federation of America  The AIDS Institute
Immune Deficiency Foundation  The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society
Lupus Foundation of America
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/