



November 2, 2023

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
102 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
141 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
2107 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Brown, Senator Baldwin, Representative Dingell, and Representative Pallone:

On behalf of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), representing more than 129,600 family physicians and medical students across the country, I write to offer our support for the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act* (S. 3138 / H.R. 5434).

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) combined cover almost 90 million individuals, providing access to necessary, lifesaving health care services. Continuous, uninterrupted coverage translates to improved access to preventive care, fewer disruptions in care, strengthened physician-patient relationships built on trust and continuity, and less costly emergency department visits.¹ Streamlining access to coverage and reducing churn helps improve access to high-quality, longitudinal primary care, which has been shown to reduce mortality rates, improve health outcomes, and lower health care expenditures.

Family physicians are many patients' first point of contact with the health care system and continue to provide care for many Medicaid and CHIP patients and their families from birth throughout their lifespans. Ensuring continuous coverage in Medicaid and CHIP will help reduce enrollment churn, which in turn reduces administrative burdens on physicians and their practices and helps physicians maintain continuity and trust in their relationships with their patients.

The AAFP [believes](#) that all Medicaid programs should provide continuous eligibility to beneficiaries for at least twelve months. Therefore, we applaud your legislation, which would require state Medicaid and CHIP programs to provide twelve months of continuous coverage for all enrolled individuals, building upon the existing continuous coverage requirement for children under 19 years of age. This will have meaningful impacts on reducing administrative red tape, closing existing coverage gaps, and addressing health disparities.

Thank you for your leadership to ensure that more individuals in the United States have reliable access to affordable health care coverage. The AAFP is pleased to support the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act*. Should you have any questions, please contact Natalie Williams, Senior Manager of Legislative Affairs at nwilliams2@afp.org.

STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

President
Steven Furr, MD
Jackson, AL

President-elect
Jen Brull, MD
Fort Collins, CO

Board Chair
Tochi Iroku-Malizi, MD
Islip, NY

Directors
Gail Guerrero-Tucker, MD, *Thatcher, AZ*
Sarah Nosal, MD, *New York, NY*
Karen Smith, MD, *Raeftord, NC*
Kisha Davis, MD, MPH, *North Potomac, MD*
Jay Lee, MD, MPH, *Costa Mesa, CA*
Teresa Lovins, MD, *Columbus, IN*

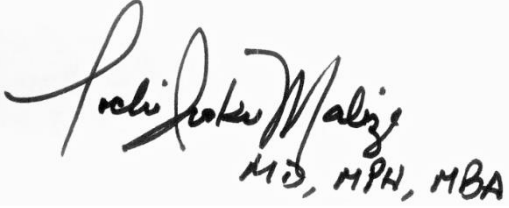
Sarah Sams, MD, *Dublin, OH*
Brent Smith, MD, *Cleveland, MS*
Jefferey Zavala, MD, *Billings, MT*
Matthew Adkins, DO (New Physician Member), *Columbus, OH*
Janet Nwaukoni, DO (Resident Member), *Grayslake, IL*
Taree Chadwick (Student Member), *Reno, NV*

Speaker
Russell Kohl, MD
Stilwell, KS

Vice Speaker
Daron Gersch, MD
Avon, MN

Executive Vice President
R. Shawn Martin
Leawood, KS

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light gray background. The signature reads "Tochi Iroku-Malize" in a cursive script, with "MD, MPH, MBA" written in a simpler, sans-serif font below it.

Tochi Iroku-Malize, MD, MPH, MBA, FAAFP
American Academy of Family Physicians, Board Chair

ⁱ American Hospital Association. Report: The Importance of Health Coverage.
<https://www.aha.org/guidesreports/report-importance-health-coverage>