



September 28, 2023

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Blunt Rochester and Fitzpatrick:

We write in strong support of H.R. 4775, the Helping Tobacco Users Quit Act, legislation that will ensure that all Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees have access to the full array of evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments, including all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications. Smoking rates are particularly high among people enrolled in Medicaid. Helping individuals who use tobacco to quit should be a critical component of the nation's efforts to combat the deadly consequences of tobacco use.

Tobacco use is a key driver of poor health outcomes and health costs for Medicaid. Medicaid enrollees smoke at more than twice the rate of adults with private health insurance, which increases their risk of at least 12 cancers, cardiovascular disease, COPD, Type 2 diabetes, and other tobacco-related diseases. In addition to harming health, high rates of tobacco use also lead to higher health care costs. Smoking-related diseases account for approximately \$72.7 billion in annual Medicaid costs.

Most individuals who use tobacco products want to quit, and Medicaid and CHIP enrollees who use tobacco should have access to treatments that give them the best chance to quit successfully. But while all states provide some level of tobacco cessation coverage for Medicaid enrollees, many state Medicaid programs do not cover all evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments and include barriers, like cost

sharing and prior authorization requirements, to accessing coverage. According to the most recent data, only 20 states covered all seven FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications as well as group and individual cessation counseling, and only three of these states covered all treatments without barriers to access.

Your bill addresses these gaps in coverage by extending comprehensive tobacco cessation coverage to all Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. It would also reduce barriers to accessing this coverage by eliminating cost sharing and prior authorization requirements. For the five years following enactment of the legislation, the bill would provide enhanced federal funding to cover 90 percent of the cost of the benefit as well as state outreach campaigns to educate providers and Medicaid and CHIP enrollees about the benefit.

Expanding coverage of tobacco cessation treatments can pay dividends in terms of improved health and lower health care costs. After Massachusetts expanded its Medicaid tobacco cessation coverage and conducted a campaign to educate Medicaid enrollees and providers about the enhanced coverage, smoking rates among Medicaid enrollees decreased from 38 percent to 28 percent over a two-and-a-half-year period. Every dollar the state invested in its Medicaid tobacco cessation benefit and awareness campaign resulted in \$3.12 in health care savings from reduced hospitalizations.

Quitting is one of the most important actions individuals who use tobacco can take to improve their health, and Medicaid and CHIP should assist enrollees who want to quit. We applaud you for introducing legislation that would ensure that all Medicaid and CHIP enrollees have barrier-free coverage of evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council	American College of Physicians
Allergy & Asthma Network	American College of Preventive Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians	American Dental Association
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	American Federation of Teachers
American Academy of Pediatrics	American Heart Association
American Association for Cancer Research	American Lung Association
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research	American Medical Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	American Medical Student Association
American College of Cardiology	American Nonsmokers' Rights
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)	American Pharmacists Association
	American Society of Addiction Medicine

American Thoracic Society	Leadership Council for Healthy Communities
Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)	LUNGevery Foundation
Association for Clinical Oncology	March of Dimes
Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence	National Alliance for Hispanic Health
Association of Black Women Physicians	National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health, The
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs	National Association of Hispanic Nurses
Association of State and Territorial Health Officials	National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America	National Association of School Nurses
Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative	National Association of Social Workers
Big Cities Health Coalition	National Black Nurses Association, Inc
Breathe Southern California	National Hispanic Medical Association
CADCA	National LGBT Cancer Network
Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids	National Network of Public Health Institutes
Cancer Prevention Treatment Fund	North American Quitline Consortium
Catholic Health Association of the United States, The	Oncology Nursing Society, The
Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS	Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes
COPD Foundation	Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21
Emphysema Foundation of America	Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.	Respiratory Health Association
First Focus Campaign for Children	Right 2 Breathe
For Future Lungs	Save A Girl Save A World
GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality	Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions
GO2 for Lung Cancer	Society for Public Health Education
Healthy Americas Foundation	Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco
IntelliQuit	Society of Thoracic Surgeons, The
	University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention