



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

June 21, 2017

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
Majority Whip
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators McConnell, Cornyn, Hatch, and Alexander:

The Partnership for Medicaid – a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition of organizations representing health care providers, safety net health plans, counties and labor – is concerned that the Senate may soon consider and vote on legislation including a major fundamental restructuring of the Medicaid program without the benefit of public committee consideration. To date, no commitment has been made to hold legislative hearings or markups. **On behalf of the Partnership and the millions of your constituents we collectively serve each year, we respectfully urge you in the strongest possible terms to bring this legislation through an open, transparent, “regular order” process in the Senate.**

The goal of the Partnership is to preserve and improve the Medicaid program so that it better meets the needs of the beneficiaries it serves. Over 70 million people rely on Medicaid to deliver necessary health care services and other related supports and services. Any legislation that makes fundamental changes to the Medicaid program must receive full and careful consideration to ensure we do not undermine the quality of services or access to care for the vulnerable populations that this safety net program has served for over 50 years.

The Partnership and its individual organizations stand ready to provide constructive feedback as the Senate considers legislation. However, the absence of committee hearings or markups in the current process is of great concern. The committee process provides an essential forum for meaningful public stakeholder feedback and allows lawmakers the opportunity to hear from constituents who will be directly affected by any legislation considered by Congress. We strongly urge the Senate to use the established regular order, and specifically, request the Senate to publicly release legislative text, hold legislative hearings in the Finance and Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees and mark-up the legislation in both committees of jurisdiction before bringing the bill to the Senate floor.

The Partnership remains committed to preserving a strong Medicaid program and stands ready to work with the Senate to ensure beneficiaries receive the care and coverage they need.

Sincerely,

American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Dental Association
American Dental Education Association
American Health Care Association
America's Essential Hospitals
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Clinicians for the Underserved
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Children's Hospital Association
Easterseals
The Jewish Federations of North America
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of Rural Health Clinics
National Council for Behavioral Health
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Rural Health Association