

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 7, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Speaker Johnson:

As we begin a new Congress, we seek to pursue policies that improve the lives of Americans across this country. However, we are deeply concerned about recent reporting on Republican plans to use the budget reconciliation process to advance President Trump's reckless agenda. While we disagree on these costly and misguided policies, we are hopeful that there is bipartisan understanding of Medicaid's importance for millions across the country, that the Medicaid program should be enhanced rather than cut, and that Republican policies should not be paid for at the expense of working-class Americans losing their health care.

Medicaid is a lifeline for communities across the country. Nearly 80 million Americans get their health insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), which provide services Americans rely on to remain healthy, go to school, and thrive at work. Medicaid pays for nearly half of all births in the U.S., provides health insurance coverage to nearly half of all of America's children, provides care to 3 in 5 nursing home residents, and provides peace of mind to 17 million women of reproductive age. Medicaid is also a lifeline for rural communities, with children and non-elderly adults in rural areas more likely to be covered by Medicaid compared to those in urban areas.

Republicans are proposing cuts to the Medicaid program from hundreds of billions to multiple trillions of dollars.¹ Cuts to Medicaid through drastically changing the program's financing structure or imposing additional barriers to coverage are dangerous to the millions of people who rely on the program. These proposals will also force states to make difficult decisions that will result in millions getting kicked off their coverage and providers struggling to keep their practices open. States simply cannot absorb these massive funding cuts without hurting children, seniors, people with disabilities, tribal populations, patients with chronic illnesses, and many other Americans who rely on Medicaid.

Speaking about Medicaid last week, President Trump said, "We're not going to do anything with that, unless we can find some abuse or waste. The people won't be affected. It will only be more effective and better."²

¹ Aaron E. Carroll. The Republicans' Choice: Tax Cuts for the Rich or Health Care for Americans. The New York Times. Feb. 2, 2025. <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/02/02/opinion/medicaid-tax-cuts-republicans.html>.

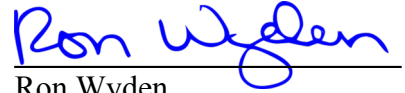
² Ben Leonard, "Trump Vows to 'Love and Cherish' Medicaid – While Republicans Plot Cuts for Savings." *Politico*. Jan. 31, 2025. <https://www.politico.com/live-updates/2025/01/31/congress/trump-love-and-cherish-medicaid-00201893>.

Given that levels of abuse and waste within Medicaid are not commensurate to cutting billions from the program, President Trump and Congressional Leadership should uphold this commitment to enhance, rather than gut, Medicaid. The American people should be assured that Medicaid will be protected. We urge you to reject proposals that use Medicaid as a piggy bank for partisan priorities and continue to defend the importance of this vital program.

Sincerely,



Jack Reed
United States Senator



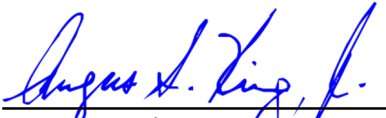
Ron Wyden
United States Senator



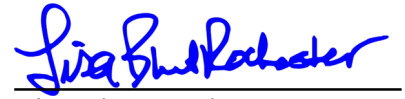
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



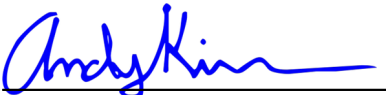
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



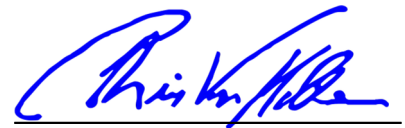
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator



Andy Kim
United States Senator



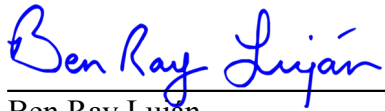
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



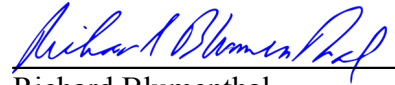
Raphael Warnock
United States Senator



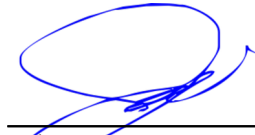
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Ben Ray Lujan
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



John Fetterman
United States Senator



Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker
United States Senator



Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator




Peter Welch
United States Senator



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



Tina Smith
United States Senator



Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senator



Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator



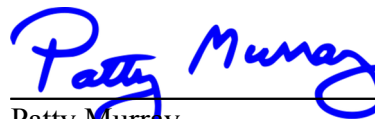
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



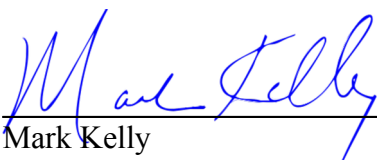
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



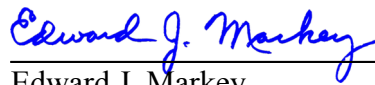
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Patty Murray
United States Senator



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



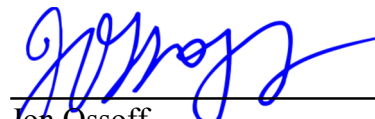
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator



Maggie Hassan
United States Senator



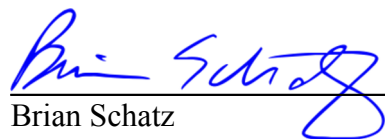
Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senator



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



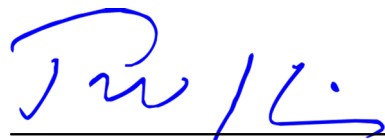
Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Brian Schatz
United States Senator



Mark R. Warner
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Jacky Rosen
United States Senator



Angela Alsobrooks
United States Senator



Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell
United States Senator