

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20201

Dear President Biden and Secretary Becerra,

We write to request that you favorably consider the implementation of a special enrollment period for beneficiaries directly affected by the elimination of continuous coverage requirement authorized by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. The elimination of this requirement is the single largest health coverage transition event since the first open enrollment period of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and therefore necessitates further action by the Administration to ensure a smooth transition.¹

With the continuous coverage requirement ending on March 31, 2023, states could possibly begin their unwinding periods as early as February 1, 2023.² Currently, when an individual loses their Medicaid or Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) coverage due to changes in eligibility, they qualify for a 60-day special enrollment period in the ACA marketplace. We are concerned the current timeline does not give beneficiaries affected by this new policy sufficient time to renew their existing Medicaid coverage or transition to marketplace coverage. A special enrollment period ending in 2024 could help those beneficiaries most at risk of losing coverage, particularly people of color and children.³ Additionally, we have concerns that those still eligible for Medicaid could lose coverage due to administrative barriers in place in their states, such as long wait times or multiple unnecessary paperwork requests. We encourage the Administration to put in place policies to mitigate these barriers.

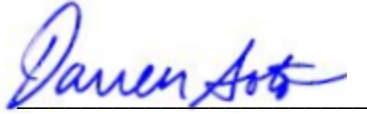
The continuous coverage policy led to an almost 30 percent increase in Medicaid and CHIP enrollment and record low uninsured rates. But now nearly 18 million people are at risk of losing coverage during the unwinding process. As this deadline approaches, we respectfully request you consider the implementation of a special enrollment period for Medicaid or CHIP beneficiaries facing a loss of insurance coverage due to the elimination of the continuous coverage requirement.

¹ <https://www.medicaid.gov/resources-for-states/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19/unwinding-and-returning-regular-operations-after-covid-19/index.html>

² <https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/cib010523.pdf>

³ [aspe-end-mcaid-continuous-coverage.pdf](https://www.medicaid.gov/federal-policy-guidance/downloads/aspe-end-mcaid-continuous-coverage.pdf) ([hhs.gov](https://www.hhs.gov))

Sincerely,



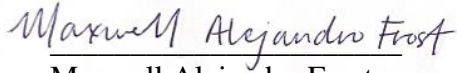
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Kathy Castor
Member of Congress



Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Maxwell Alejandro Frost
Member of Congress



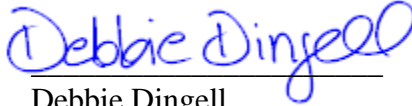
Marc Veasey
Member of Congress



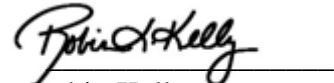
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Tony Cárdenas
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Robin Kelly
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress