

December 10, 2020

President-elect Biden and Presidential Transition Co-Chairs:

As leading national, state, local, and tribal nation organizations dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of all in our nation, we want to congratulate you on your election victory. We are grateful for your leadership on health care during the campaign, especially your sharp focus on the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and renewed call for racial justice. While the challenges facing your administration are truly unprecedented, you have an historic opportunity to build on your record of success in protecting and advancing our nation's health to achieve tremendous progress for the American people. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal.

As you set your agenda for the coming year, combating COVID-19 and addressing the pressing health care needs of all our country's individuals and families must be your highest priority. Your work on these issues will be key to turning the tide of the pandemic, restoring our economy, and saving lives. It will also set the course for the health and well-being of every family in America for decades to come. As such, we urge you to prioritize the health care commitments you made during the campaign in the first year of your administration, and that they be central to your first 100 days agenda. Specifically, we urge you to:

**Take bold and immediate action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.** To protect families' access to care and financial security, to reduce health and economic inequities, and to save jobs and promote economic recovery, we implore you to work with Congress to provide relief from the disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to:

- Ensure all individuals have equitable access to testing and treatment for COVID-19.
- Ensure equitable distribution of any safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19.
- Equip states, territories, counties and other localities with sufficient financial support to combat the crisis and appropriately manage persistent budget shortfalls.
- Provide unfettered access to personal protective equipment and support to the health care workforce and others on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- Strengthen and invest in modernizing the nation's public health systems at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments, to better respond to COVID-19 and ongoing public health threats.
- Bolster access to health coverage and care, while maximizing capacity throughout the health system to treat all patients in need.

**End racial injustice in health and health care, and ensure all individuals and families have equal opportunity to live a healthy life, free from health disparities and barriers to care because of who they are, where they live, what language they speak, or how they identify.** There is a growing determination in the United States that our nation's tragic history of systemic racism and the resulting inequities in health and health care will no longer be tolerated. To bend the arc of history toward justice in health outcomes we urge you to:

- Establish a White House Office focused on achieving health and racial equity to improve coordination, through a racial equity lens, on core health, environmental, and economic justice issues across major federal agencies.
- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to require that every state, locality, and territory measure and report on health outcomes by race, ethnicity, primary language,

rural/urban location, and disability status, at a minimum; and to realign payment to ensure accountability to end health disparities across health and social services systems.

- Rescind regulatory revisions to section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act that institute an ideologically based re-definition of sex discrimination that excludes discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation and rolls back protections that provide access to interpretation and translation services.

**Pursue common-sense reforms that make health coverage and care affordable for all families in America.** No parent should be forced to choose between going to the doctor and putting food on the table. No taxpayer should face unaffordable health care costs in retirement despite a lifetime of paying into Medicare. No worker should be forced to stay in an unsafe job just to keep their health care. No immigrant - many of whom have been at the frontlines of this pandemic caring for our loved ones, picking and processing our food, and keeping our economy in motion – should be denied access to care. Among the many steps available to the new administration, we urge you to:

- Ensure health coverage and access to regular medical care for all people, regardless of immigration status, starting with reinstating protections for DACA-eligible residents and rescinding recent harmful regulations that threaten the health and safety of immigrant families, including the “public charge” rule.
- Streamline Medicaid and CHIP eligibility processes to eliminate red-tape barriers to enrolling and maintaining coverage by extending enrollment periods and making enrollment automatic, inclusive, and more stable.
- Make marketplace coverage more affordable, including for people without job-based coverage
- Allow and encourage states to better utilize 1332 and 1115 waivers to improve health coverage options and increase access to a full spectrum of health care services.
- Make meaningful progress toward the goal of enacting comprehensive Medicare coverage for oral health by extending Medicare coverage for “medically necessary oral health care”.

**Bring down health care costs and transform our health care system by ending health industry abuses and prioritizing high-quality, consumer-centered health care.** Now is the time to address the needs of everyday families over powerful special interests. We urge you to:

- Lower prescription drug costs by working with Congress to make meaningful progress toward allowing the government to negotiate for fair and reasonable Medicare drug prices.
- End surprise medical bills that send people into bankruptcy by banning “balanced billing” practices and providing protections to consumers without increasing costs.
- Enact policies that move our health system towards incentivizing affordable, high-quality services centered on outcomes and value instead of volume of care.

The undersigned organizations are committed to doing everything in our power to help you bring to fruition the health care vision that you articulated with such power on the campaign trail. The health of our nation now requires that you follow through on those commitments with swift and bold action. We stand ready to work with you to advance these and other critical health policies that address the urgent health care needs of America’s families.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Taylor, Senior Director for Federal Relations at Families USA: [jtaylor@familiesusa.org](mailto:jtaylor@familiesusa.org), 202-626-0612

Sincerely,

## **National Organizations**

Families USA

ACA Consumer Advocacy

ACCESS

ADAP Advocacy Association

African American Health Alliance

Aging Life Care Association

Allergy & Asthma Network

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alliance for Strong Families and Communities

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

American Association of Suicidology

American Association on Health and Disability

American Geriatrics Society

American Institute of Dental Public Health

American Medical Student Association

American Muslim Health Professionals

American Physical Therapy Association

Association for Community Affiliated Plans

Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Brain Injury Association of America

Center for Health and Social Care Integration

Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Center for Public Representation

Child Welfare League of America

Children's Health Fund

Children's HealthWatch

Coalition for Hemophilia B

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Access National Network (CANN)

Community Catalyst

Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces

Corporation for Supportive Housing

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement

Different Kind Inc

Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office

DPRG Group Llc

Every Mother Counts

Farmworker Justice

First Focus Campaign for Children

FORCE - Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Inc.

Get America Covered

Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice

Global Justice Institute

Health Care Voices

HealthConnect One

HealthHIV

Healthy Schools Campaign

Hemophilia Federation of America

Hispanic Federation  
HIV Dental Alliance  
H-PPRCT  
Human Impact Partners  
Human Rights Campaign  
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility  
Jon C Burr Foundation  
Justice in Aging  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Legal Action Center  
Little Lobbyists  
Long Term Care Community Coalition  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Medicaid | Medicare | CHIP Services Dental Association  
Medicare Rights Center  
MomsRising  
NASTAD  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)  
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health  
National Association for Rural Mental Health  
National Association of Community Health Centers  
National Association of Counties  
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors  
National Birth Equity Collaborative  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Center on Adoption and Permanency  
National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity  
National Coalition on Health Care  
National Consumers League  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council on Urban Indian Health  
National Dental Association  
National Employment Law Project  
National Family Support Network  
National Health Council  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Partnership for Women & Families  
National Respite Coalition  
National Rural Health Association  
National WIC Association  
National Women's Health Network  
National Women's Law Center  
Native American Alumni of Harvard University  
OCA - Asian American Pacific Advocates  
Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)  
Planned Parenthood Federation of America  
Positive Women's Network-USA

Prevent Blindness  
Prevention Institute  
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)  
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

## RESULTS

Santa Fe Group  
SEIU  
Share Our Strength  
Society of State Leaders of Health & Physical Education  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Swipe Out Hunger  
The Arc of the United States  
The Coalition for Hemophilia B  
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health  
The National Assn of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors  
The National Coalition for LGBT Health  
The Well Project  
Treatment Action Group  
Treatment Communities of America  
Triage Cancer  
Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)  
Trust for America's Health  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation

United States People living with HIV Caucus  
United Way Worldwide  
Voices for Progress  
Young Invincibles

## State Organizations

### **Alabama**

AIDS Alabama  
Alabama Arise  
Community Enabler  
Inspire United Appeal Fund

### **Alaska**

Alaska Primary Care Association

### **Arizona**

Asian Pacific Community in Action  
Arizona Oral Health Coalition  
Child and Family Resources  
Children's Action Alliance  
Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers  
Unlimited Potential

### **Arkansas**

Community Health Centers of Arkansas  
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

### **California**

San Fernando Community Health Center  
Westside Family Health Center  
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank  
San Francisco AIDS Foundation  
Venice Family Clinic

Orange County United Way

Dientes Community Dental Care

Equality California

CRLA Foundation

California Pan-Ethnic Health Network

California Immigrant Policy Center

CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates

Oasis Legal Services

California Dental Association

The Children's Partnership

California Health Advocates

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform

Health Access California

Partners in Care Foundation

Alianza Sacramento

California Primary Care Association

### **Colorado**

Colorado School Medicaid Consortium

Colorado Consumer Health Initiative

Colorado Children's Campaign

Colorado Community Health Network

Colorado Covering Kids and Families

Center for Health Progress

### **Connecticut**

Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut

Ministerial Health Fellowship Advisory

National Association of Social Workers, CT  
Chapter

### **District of Columbia**

Rebuilding Independence My Style

No Justice No Pride

Mamatoto Village

DC Coalition on Long Term Care

TENAC (D.C. Tenants' Advocacy Coalition)

Empower DC

Bread for the City

### **Delaware**

Christian Council of Delmarva

Westside Family Healthcare

### **Florida**

Florida Policy Institute

Florida Voices for Health

#Impact

### **Georgia**

Benevis Dental Practice Management Services

Not One More Life, Inc.

Georgians for a Healthy Future

Georgia Watch

### **Hawai'i**

Hawaii Public Health Institute

Hawai'i Children's Action Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

### **Illinois**

University YMCA New American Welcome Center

Enlace Chicago

Shriver Center on Poverty Law

EverThrive Illinois

AIDS Foundation Chicago

Heartland Alliance

Protect Our Care Illinois

Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR)

Legal Council for Health Justice

#### **Iowa**

SALUD-Multicultural Health Coalition of Storm Lake

#### **Kansas**

Community Care Network of Kansas

Kansas Advocates for Better Care

Oral Health Kansas

#### **Kentucky**

McNary Group

Kentucky Voices for Health

Kentucky Equal Justice Center

#### **Louisiana**

Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families

Louisiana Primary Care Association

EXCELth, Inc.

#### **Maine**

Maine Equal Justice

Maine Primary Care Association

#### **Maryland**

Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc.

Neighbors Rising

Elizabeth Cooney Care Network

Public Justice Center

High Note Consulting, LLC

United Seniors of Maryland

National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Maryland Chapter

Maryland Citizens' Health Initiative

Maryland Dental Action Coalition

#### **Massachusetts**

Health Care For All - Massachusetts

Rosie's Place

R2H Action [Right to Health]

#### **Michigan**

Detroit Community Health Connection

Community Housing Network, Inc.

United Way for Southeastern Michigan

Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit

Michigan League for Public Policy

United Health Organization

#### **Minnesota**

Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers

Minnesota Oral Health Coalition

TakeAction Minnesota

West Central Initiative

#### **Mississippi**

Mississippi Center for Justice

#### **Missouri**

Missouri Health Care For All

Missouri Budget Project

#### **Montana**

Montana Women Vote

#### **Nebraska**

Nebraska Appleseed

**Nevada**

Silver State Equality-Nevada

Immunize Nevada

**New Jersey**

New Jersey Association of Mental Health and  
Addiction Agencies

Family Voices NJ

New Jersey Citizen Action

Hyacinth AIDS Foundation

Camden Coalition of Healthcare Providers

**New Mexico**

coasap

HealthCare Not Warfare Action Team, Central  
New Mexico Chapter of PDA

NM Center on Law and Poverty

**New York**

Project Accessible Oral Health

Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY

African Services Committee

Metro New York Health Care for All

Saratoga Immigration Coalition

New York Immigration Coalition

Community Health Care Association of New York  
State

New York State Oral Health Coalition

**New Hampshire**

Easterseals NH, VT, ME and Farnum

**North Carolina**

Pisgah Legal Services

Equality North Carolina

North Carolina Asian Americans Together

NC Child

North Carolina Justice Center

**Ohio**

Ohio Alliance for Retired Americans Educational  
Fund

Oral Health Ohio

Ohio Association of Community Health Centers

Ohio Council of Churches

Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland

**Oklahoma**

Oklahoma Policy Institute

**Oregon**

National Crittenton

**Pennsylvania**

Maternity Care Coalition

Women's Law Project

Pennsylvania Health Access Network

Pennsylvania Council of Churches

PA Coalition for Oral Health

**Rhode Island**

Lighthouse Community Development Corp

Rhode Island Parent Information Network

Protect Our Healthcare Coalition RI

SISTA Fire

**South Carolina**

SC Appleseed Legal Justice Center

**Tennessee**



A VOICE for the Reduction of Poverty in Nashville and Beyond

Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable

Tennessee Health Care Campaign

Tennessee Justice Center

### **Texas**

Children's Defense Fund - Texas

Every Texan (formerly CPPP)

Human Rights Initiative of North Texas

La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter

Reflection International Ministries

Texas Council on Family Violence

### **Utah**

Association for Utah Community Health

Senior Charity Care Foundation

Voices for Utah Children

Utah Health Policy Project

### **Vermont**

Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

### **Virginia**

Virginia Organizing

Social Action Linking Together (SALT)

Virginia Health Catalyst

Virginia Poverty Law Center

Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations

The National Korean American Service and Education Consortium - Virginia (NAKASEC VA)

### **Washington**

International Community Health Services

Northwest Health Law Advocates

Toppenish Community Chest

Bermuda Associates LLC

Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation (SYL Foundation)

### **West Virginia**

West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy

West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

### **Wisconsin**

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice

Citizen Action of Wisconsin

### **Wyoming**

Wyoming Community Foundation