



What's at Stake in Congress: A Critical Health Advocacy Moment

September 15th, 2021



Dedicated to creating a nation where the best health and health care are equally accessible and affordable to all

Today's Speakers & Agenda

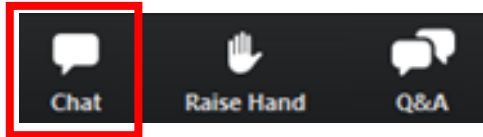
Agenda	Speakers
Our Lives are At Stake: Peter Morley's Story	Peter Morley Health Care Activist
Landscape Update: Status of Health Care Priorities in Congress	Kate Rose Welsh Rose LLC
Moving Forward on Key Priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Prescription Drug Pricingb) Medicare Dental, Vision, and Hearing Coveragec) Lowering Premium Costs in the Marketplaced) Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap	Jen Taylor, Melissa Burroughs, Eliot Fishman Families USA
How to Take Action	Lisa Hunter Families USA



Housekeeping

Zoom Webinar Participant Controls

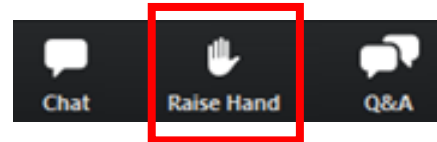
Chat Box: Open *Chat* to send messages to the host, panelists, and attendees.



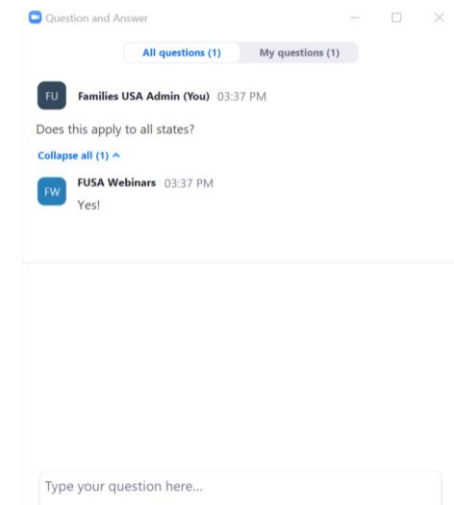
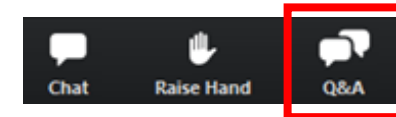
You can choose to chat only the panelists, or all panelists and attendees.



Raise Hand: Press *Raise Hand* to indicate you have a question and would like to ask out loud.



Question & Answer Box: Open the Q&A window to ask questions to the hosts and panelists. We'll either reply back to you directly or answer your question live.



“Our Lives are at Stake”

Landscape Update: Status of Health Care Priorities in Congress

Build Back Better – Movement on President Biden’s Domestic Agenda

- **What is Congress Doing?**
 - Hard Infrastructure
 - Social Infrastructure
 - Must-Pass Legislation: Funding the Government and Increasing the Debt Ceiling
- **When Will They Act?**
 - House: Speaker Pelosi’s Goals/Commitments
 - Senate: The Great Balancing Act + Key Senate Members
- **Opportunities for Advocacy**
 - Early and Often
 - Role of the 2022 Midterm Election

Moving Forward on Key Priorities

Prescription Drug Pricing



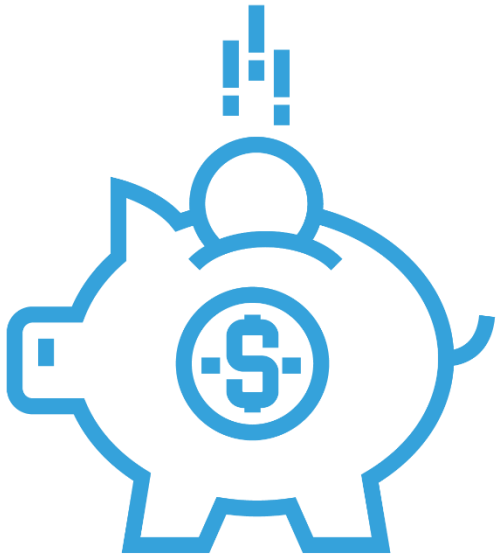
- Nearly **1 in 3 people** cannot fill their prescriptions due to cost
- **90% of people** across party lines say they want Congress to act now to lower drug costs
- Key legislative elements to watch/activate around:
 - Allowing Medicare to negotiate fair prescription drug prices
 - Extending lower drug prices to people who buy insurance in the commercial market
 - Establishing a real price-benchmarking mechanism (rather than creating a “discount” off of an inflated “list price”)
 - Covering both the initial launch price of drugs and price increases
 - Creating strong penalties for drug companies if they don’t come to an agreement with CMS on a drug’s price

Medicare Dental, Vision and Hearing Coverage



- **60 million older adults and people with disabilities** would be able to get important oral/vision/hearing care AND be healthier, have lower health care costs, and be better able to get and keep jobs.
- Dental care is **the #1 medical service** that people across America skip due to cost.
- More than **40% of older adults in six states** [AR, KY, MO, MS, TN, WV] have not seen a dentist in over a year, even before the pandemic. In seven states [AL, AR, KY, MS, OK, TN, WV] **20% or more of older adults** lost all of their natural teeth
- Key policy to watch/activate around: Adding comprehensive dental (and vision/hearing) coverage to Medicare Part B

Lowering Premium Costs in the Marketplace



- **14 million** people currently get their health coverage through the ACA Marketplace
- **53% of people** report that they were worried about their ability to afford their health insurance deductible
- ARPA's improvements to premium tax credits have made health coverage affordable for millions of people— **over 1 million people** in Florida and Texas alone gained new access coverage they could afford
- Key policies to watch/mobilize around: making the ARPA's APTC improvements permanent, provisions to reduce deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs.

Closing the Medicaid Coverage Gap

- 12 states have refused to fully expand Medicaid. As a result, millions of people, **60% of whom are people of color, fall into a “coverage gap”**
- May 2021 poll: **80% of people in America support** “expanding government health insurance coverage for lower-income people in non-expansion states”
- Out-of-pocket spending on health care pushed **over 10.5 million Americans** into poverty in 2016
- Key policy to watch: development of permanent federal coverage that is equivalent to Medicaid in non-expansion states through Marketplace coverage or a “Medicaid Look-Alike” program



How to Take Action

Your Voice Matters!

This
Week

What's at Stake
Report in your Inbox

Thursday 30
Twitter Storm
Tomorrow 12 ET

Next
Week

Call In Day! 9/22
Make sure your
Members of Congress
hear from you!

Thursday 30
Twitter Storm
9/23 12 ET

Coming
Soon

Additional Resources
and Opportunities for
Direct & Digital Action

- New Report (includes state by state data):
 - [What's at Stake for America's Families: Why Congress Must Go Big and Bold in Reconciliation to Improve Health and Health Care for Millions of People](#)
- Tools for Social Media Activation:
 - [Thursday30 Toolkit](#)

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[FamiliesUSA.org](https://www.familiesusa.org)