

SUSIE LEE

3RD DISTRICT, NEVADA

WASHINGTON OFFICE

522 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-3252

DISTRICT OFFICE

8872 EASTERN AVENUE, SUITE 220
LAS VEGAS, NV 89123
(702) 963-9336



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2803

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION & LABOR

COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

August 6, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, Room S-224
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell, Leader McCarthy, and Leader Schumer,

As the Senate and the House of Representatives work to finalize the COVID-4 package, we urge you to include a temporary increase of the Medicaid Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) of 14 percentage points over the 12 months of the state fiscal year that began July 1, 2020. This emergency increase in FMAP is urgently needed to put our nation on a path to recovery and is strongly supported by our nation's governors on a bipartisan basis.

As you know, Medicaid was created in 1965 as a partnership between the federal government and the states to ensure that vulnerable populations have access to health care and other essential services. Medicaid was also designed respond to economic crises, serving as a critical safety net for people who lose coverage due to job loss. The ongoing public health emergency created by COVID-19 is precisely the type of national crisis that the Medicaid program is suited to address.

In acknowledgement of the vital role that Medicaid plays in supporting low and middle-income families across the country, Congress temporarily increased the Medicaid FMAP by 6.2 percentage points in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (H.R. 6201). This legislation included essential maintenance of effort and coverage protections to prevent states from cutting eligibility and current participation in their current Medicaid programs, which also must be continued.

The 6.2 percentage point increase included in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act was just a beginning. As unemployment remains at record levels, the public health emergency continues, and states face dangerous budget shortfalls, more needs to be done to ensure that states and providers have the resources they need to meet the growing demand on their health care systems and that individuals can access the comprehensive coverage and care they need during this crisis.

As you know, in May, the House passed the HEROES Act (H.R. 6800) which would increase FMAP by a total of 14 percentage points through June 30, 2021. The National Governor's Association, provider and patient groups, and advocates across the country have sent letters outlining the need for additional federal

Medicaid funding during this crisis. We urge you to heed this request and include an emergency 14 percentage point increase of the Medicaid FMAP in the next COVID response package.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



Susie Lee
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/

Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress

/s/

Joseph P. Kennedy, III
Member of Congress

/s/

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress

/s/

Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/

Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

/s/

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/

Jerry McNerney
Member of Congress

/s/

Scott Peters
Member of Congress

/s/

David Trone
Member of Congress

/s/

John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

/s/

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

/s/

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

/s/

Daniel T. Kildee
Member of Congress

/s/

Sean Casten
Member of Congress

/s/

Steven Horsford
Member of Congress

/s/

Marcia L. Fudge
Member of Congress

/s/

Lisa Blunt Rochester
Member of Congress

/s/

Alan Lowenthal
Member of Congress

/s/

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

/s/

Adam Smith
Member of Congress

/s/

Bill Foster
Member of Congress

/s/

Tim Ryan
Member of Congress

/s/

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/

Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

/s/

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

/s/

André Carson
Member of Congress

/s/

David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

/s/

Kathy Castor
Member of Congress

/s/

Gregorio Kilili Camacho
Sablan
Member of Congress

/s/

Nydia Velázquez
Member of Congress