

December 15, 2016

The Honorable Bruce Rauner, Governor
Office of the Governor
100 W. Randolph
Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Rauner,

As you are aware, Congress has asked each Governor for their recommendations for future health reforms impacting the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and Medicaid. We urge you to tell Congress not to repeal the ACA, in part or in whole, without an adequate replacement. We also urge you to oppose changes to the financing and coverage guarantees of the Medicaid program, such as a block grant or per capita cap. Both of these proposals would result in grave harm to our communities and the financial well-being of the state.

Medicaid expansion is critical to our safety net infrastructure and to the 650,000 Illinoisans who have gained coverage. These individuals and families can now address their health care needs without fear of financial ruin. Uncompensated care at safety net hospitals is at an all-time low. Medicaid expansion is also fundamental to Illinois's groundbreaking criminal justice and behavioral health transformation – initiatives that would unravel if Medicaid expansion ended.

A repeal of the Medicaid expansion or drastic changes in Medicaid through a block grant or per capita cap would not only threaten this progress but also the financial stability of the state. An estimated \$3.1 billion in federal funds would be lost in 2019 alone if Medicaid expansion were to end and far greater reductions are expected if block grant or per capita cap reforms are enacted – estimates based on past block grant proposals are that Illinois would lose up to 40% of all Medicaid funding over ten years. This loss of federal funding would cripple the state and far outweigh any advantage the state may expect from increased flexibility.

Illinoisans also depend on the private insurance market expansions and strong consumer protections afforded by the ACA. Over 125,000 young adults are now covered under their parent's insurance plans and 388,000 individuals have enrolled in the GetCoveredIllinois Marketplace. Most of these individuals depend on financial assistance to make their coverage affordable and would be unable to obtain basic health coverage without it. And virtually every resident, regardless of their source of health coverage, benefits from the ACA including the prohibition on pre-existing condition denials, the removal of annual and lifetime expenditure caps, and the limits on premiums charged to those who are sick or elderly.

We strongly urge you to tell Congress that we cannot go back to a time when people could be denied coverage for pre-existing conditions; where women could be charged more for insurance than men because of their gender; where low-income adults could not qualify for Medicaid coverage because they did not have minor children; and where middle income families could not afford to buy private insurance coverage. Illinois' public's health, fiscal stability, and economic wellbeing are all at stake. Illinois needs and deserves a health system that serves us all.

The Administration must convey the gains afforded by the ACA to Congress and oppose efforts to repeal the ACA without a replacement plan ready that promotes high-quality and affordable healthcare.

Furthermore, we urge the Administration to oppose fundamental changes to Medicaid through a block grants or per capita caps that would bankrupt the state.

We stand ready to assist the Administration in whatever capacity we can. We need your leadership to protect the gains of the ACA and the communities who depend on them.

Respectfully,

Access Community Health Network
Access Living
ACLU of Illinois
Advocates for Access
Age Options
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Asian Human Services Family Health Center, Inc.
Beyond Care Inc NFP
Brighton Park Neighborhood Council
Brothers Health Collective
Cass County Health Department
Center on Halsted
Central Counties Health Centers, Inc.
Champaign County Health Care Consumers
Chicago ADAPT
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Council of Lawyers
Chicago Foundation for Women
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Chicago House and Social Service Agency
Chicago Recovery Alliance
Chicago Women's AIDS Project
Children's Place Association
Chosen Tabernacle Full Gospel Church
Christian Community Health Center
Citizen Action/Illinois
CJE SeniorLife
Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois
Collaboration for Early Childhood
Community Behavior Healthcare Association of Illinois
Community Health Partnership of Illinois
Crusader Community Health
Eagle View Community Health System
Easterseals Central Illinois
Ecker Center for Mental Health

Englewood-Rust United Methodist Church
Erie Family Health Center
Esperanza Health Centers
EverThrive Illinois
Greater Chicago Food Depository
Greater Elgin Family Care Center
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Heartland Health Outreach
Howard Brown Health
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR)
Illinois Association for Behavioral Health
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Collaboration on Youth
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living
Illinois National Organization for Women
Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living
Illinois Partners for Human Service
Illinois Primary Health Care Association
Illinois Public Health Association
Illinois Public Health Institute
IMPACT Center for Independent Living (IMPACT CIL)
Jacksonville Area Center for Independent Living
Lake County Center for Independent Living
Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center
Lawndale Christian Health Center
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Legal Advocacy Center of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago
LIFE Center for Independent Living
LINC Inc
Loyola University Chicago
Macoupin County Public Health Department
Making A Daily Effort
Mansfield Institute for Social Justice and Transformation
Mark My Words
Matt Cohen and Associates
Mental Health Summit
Metropolitan Family Services
Midwest Access Coalition
Mobile Care Chicago
NAMI Barrington Area
NAMI Chicago
NAMI Illinois

NAMI Illinois The Mental Health Summit
NAMI Southwestern Illinois
National Association of Social Workers I
National Council of Jewish Women Illinois State Policy Advocacy Network
Northern IL Public Health Consortium
Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living (NICIL)
Open Door Clinic of Greater Elgin
OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS (OFA CIL)
Options CIL
Organizing Neighborhoods for Equality: Northside (ONE Northside)
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent Living
Patient Innovation Center NFP
Planned Parenthood of Illinois
Positive Health Solutions
Progress Center for Independent Living
Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty Law
Shawnee Health Service and Development Corporation
Sinai Health System
SIU Center for Family Medicine
Southeastern Illinois Agency on Aging
Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living
Springfield Center for Independent Living
St. Anthony Hospital
Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living
Supportive Housing Providers Association
TASC, Inc.
The Friendship Center
The Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living, IVCIL
The Legal Council for Health Justice.
The Puerto Rican Cultural Center
The Salvation Army Food Pantry
Thresholds
TPAN
Transitions Mental Health Services
Trilogy Inc.
United Latin Pride
VNA Foundation
West Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging
West Central Illinois Center for Independent Living
Westside HIV/AIDS Resource Providers (WHARP)
Whiteside County Health Department/Whiteside County Community Health Clinic
Will-Grundy Center for Independent Living
Young Invincibles

Cc:

Jennifer Hammer

Deputy Chief of Staff
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Greg Bassi

Policy Advisor for Healthcare and Human Services
Office of the Governor
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Tim Nuding

Director, Governor's Office of Management & Budget
401 South Spring
603 Stratton Building
Springfield, IL 62706