

November 4, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Dingell
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Congressman Dingell,

We are writing to commend you for making extraordinary historic progress towards improving the health and economic well-being of low-income Americans in H.R. 3962, the Affordable Health Care for America Act. The bill increases the Medicaid eligibility floor to a nationwide standard of 150 percent of poverty – about \$33,075 for a family of four. This is one of the most significant contributions health reform can make. This measure will improve the lives of millions of low-income people who currently do not have access to affordable, high-quality health care they need and deserve.

Strengthening and expanding Medicaid fits within President Obama's health reform framework of building upon and improving what currently works in our system. The program is specifically designed to serve low-income people by providing substantial limits on out-of-pocket expenses, a comprehensive benefits package and coverage protections that cannot be found in the private insurance market. In addition, it is cost-effective and has a proven track record in every state. Creating a nationwide Medicaid eligibility floor at 150 percent of poverty makes a profound statement about the value of this program and its ability to cover many of the nation's uninsured.

Thank you for your passionate, effective leadership and continued commitment to low-income people. We look forward to working tirelessly with you to ensure that meaningful, comprehensive health reform becomes a reality this year.

Sincerely,

Alliance for Children and Families
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACS CAN)
American Public Health Association
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Center for Adolescent Health & the Law
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Dental Health Project

Coalition on Human Needs
Community Action Partnership
Community Voices: Healthcare for the Underserved of Morehouse School of Medicine
Disciples Justice Action Network
Easter Seals
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Families USA
Generations United
Japanese American Citizens League (JAACL)
Medicaid Health Plans of America
Mental Health America
MomsRising.org
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Social Workers
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Council of Churches USA
National Council of Jewish Women
National Health Law Program
National Hispanic Medical Association
National Physicians Alliance
National Policy and Advocacy Council on Homelessness (NPACH)
National Spinal Cord Injury Association
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
NCCNHR: The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
PHI-Health Care for Health Care Workers
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Washington Office
Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need
RESULTS
Society for Adolescent Medicine
The AIDS Institute
UJC / The Jewish Federations of North America
Union for Reform Judaism
United Neighborhood Centers of America
United Spinal Association
Voices for America's Children