



March 1, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
Independence Ave., SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra:

Once again, we would like to thank you for meeting in January with our organizations and others to discuss the dangers that communities of color face from the Medicaid unwinding.

We were inspired to hear your commitment to prevent the kind of civil rights and health equity disaster that will result if Medicaid programs return to normal pre-pandemic operations. As ASPE found, such a return is likely to result in 15 million people losing Medicaid, the largest such loss in American history, disproportionately harming people of color.

In just two years, you and your colleagues throughout the Biden-Harris Administration have made incredible progress bringing health insurance to millions of previously uninsured people, especially in historically disadvantaged communities. Unless everyone does their part to preserve eligible families' health coverage, that progress could be rolled back or even erased. We were delighted to hear your determination not to allow such a result.

We believe that, in the Omnibus Appropriations bill, Congress gave you considerable legal authority to prevent state Medicaid programs from terminating families who continue to qualify. We will share our analysis with your staff and others in the coming days.

We look forward to continued collaboration with you and your colleagues as states begin the daunting task of redetermining eligibility for roughly 90 million people. Your personal commitment to protect the communities we represent gives us hope that, working together, we can hold the line in preventing significant health care losses.

Sincerely,

Juliet K. Choi  
President and Chief Executive Office, Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Deborah Weinstein  
Executive Director, Coalition on Human Needs

Jesselyn McCurdy  
Executive Vice President of Government Affairs, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Derrick Johnson  
President & Chief Executive Officer, NAACP

Francys Crevier  
Chief Executive Officer, National Council of Urban Indian Health

Marc Morial  
President and Chief Executive Officer, National Urban League

Janet Murguia  
President and Chief Executive Officer, UnidosUS

c.c.: The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, Administrator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services

The Honorable Daniel Tsai, Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Dr. Ellen Montz, Deputy Administrator and Director of the Center for Consumer Information and Insurance Oversight