



May 31, 2023

The Honorable Xavier Becerra  
 Secretary  
 U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
 200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20201

The Honorable Chiquita Brooks-LaSure  
 Administrator Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services  
 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
 200 Independence Avenue SW  
 Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra and Administrator Brooks-LaSure:

Our organizations, representing hundreds of millions of patients and consumers facing serious, acute and chronic health conditions across the country, urge you to protect access to care in the Medicaid program by immediately pausing redeterminations in states where individuals are overwhelmingly losing coverage for procedural reasons.

Medicaid provides quality, affordable healthcare coverage for low-income children, adults, pregnant individuals, people with disabilities, and seniors. Our organizations are committed to helping the people we represent navigate the unwinding of the continuous coverage requirements to ensure that those who are currently enrolled in Medicaid maintain their coverage if eligible or transition to other forms of

quality, affordable care. We know that you share our goal of minimizing the number of individuals who become uninsured during this process.

We are deeply concerned about initial unwinding data from multiple states showing that the vast majority of people have lost coverage because of administrative issues. In Arkansas, Florida and Indiana, between 45% and 55% of cases on which states have taken action have led to coverage terminations, and more than 80% of those that lost coverage did so because individuals could not be located, failure to respond to notices, and other procedural issues.<sup>1</sup> These numbers suggest serious problems with notices and renewal forms getting to enrollees, inadequate public education campaigns, and insufficient consumer support for individuals trying to renew their coverage.

As you know, the Secretary can require corrective action plans for states that do not meet federal requirements for redeterminations and suspend terminations for procedural reasons if those action plans are not submitted or implemented. We urge you to use this authority to pause redeterminations in states with high procedural termination rates. Patients with serious and chronic health conditions cannot afford gaps in their access to care while states continue to resolve these critical issues.

This Administration has made significant progress in increasing access to coverage over the past three years and it is critical that we do not reverse that progress in the months ahead. Our organizations once again urge you to take immediate action to protect Medicaid coverage for patients in states with high procedural termination rates.

Sincerely,

Alpha-1 Foundation  
ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Lupus Foundation of America

Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Eczema Association  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
WomenHeart

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<sup>1</sup> [https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/May\\_CMS\\_unwinding\\_report5823.pdf](https://humanservices.arkansas.gov/wp-content/uploads/May_CMS_unwinding_report5823.pdf),  
<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Florida-Unwinding-Monthly-Report-April-2023-2.pdf>,  
[https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/files/CMS\\_Unwinding\\_2023-April.pdf](https://www.in.gov/medicaid/members/files/CMS_Unwinding_2023-April.pdf).