December 10, 2020

President-elect Biden and Presidential Transition Co-Chairs:

As leading national, state, local, and tribal nation organizations dedicated to advancing the health and well-being of all in our nation, we want to congratulate you on your election victory. We are grateful for your leadership on health care during the campaign, especially your sharp focus on the devastating COVID-19 pandemic and renewed call for racial justice. While the challenges facing your administration are truly unprecedented, you have an historic opportunity to build on your record of success in protecting and advancing our nation’s health to achieve tremendous progress for the American people. Our organizations stand ready to work with you to achieve that goal.

As you set your agenda for the coming year, combating COVID-19 and addressing the pressing health care needs of all our country’s individuals and families must be your highest priority. Your work on these issues will be key to turning the tide of the pandemic, restoring our economy, and saving lives. It will also set the course for the health and well-being of every family in America for decades to come. As such, we urge you to prioritize the health care commitments you made during the campaign in the first year of your administration, and that they be central to your first 100 days agenda. Specifically, we urge you to:

**Take bold and immediate action to address the COVID-19 pandemic.** To protect families’ access to care and financial security, to reduce health and economic inequities, and to save jobs and promote economic recovery, we implore you to work with Congress to provide relief from the disruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. We urge you to:

- Ensure all individuals have equitable access to testing and treatment for COVID-19.
- Ensure equitable distribution of any safe, effective vaccine for COVID-19.
- Equip states, territories, counties and other localities with sufficient financial support to combat the crisis and appropriately manage persistent budget shortfalls.
- Provide unfettered access to personal protective equipment and support to the health care workforce and others on the frontlines of the pandemic.
- Strengthen and invest in modernizing the nation’s public health systems at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as state, local, territorial, and tribal health departments, to better respond to COVID-19 and ongoing public health threats.
- Bolster access to health coverage and care, while maximizing capacity throughout the health system to treat all patients in need.

**End racial injustice in health and health care, and ensure all individuals and families have equal opportunity to live a healthy life, free from health disparities and barriers to care because of who they are, where they live, what language they speak, or how they identify.** There is a growing determination in the United States that our nation’s tragic history of systemic racism and the resulting inequities in health and health care will no longer be tolerated. To bend the arc of history toward justice in health outcomes we urge you to:

- Establish a White House Office focused on achieving health and racial equity to improve coordination, through a racial equity lens, on core health, environmental, and economic justice issues across major federal agencies.
- Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to require that every state, locality, and territory measure and report on health outcomes by race, ethnicity, primary language,
rural/urban location, and disability status, at a minimum; and to realign payment to ensure accountability to end health disparities across health and social services systems.

- Rescind regulatory revisions to section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act that institute an ideologically based re-definition of sex discrimination that excludes discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation and rolls back protections that provide access to interpretation and translation services.

**Pursue common-sense reforms that make health coverage and care affordable for all families in America.** No parent should be forced to choose between going to the doctor and putting food on the table. No taxpayer should face unaffordable health care costs in retirement despite a lifetime of paying into Medicare. No worker should be forced to stay in an unsafe job just to keep their health care. No immigrant - many of whom have been at the frontlines of this pandemic caring for our loved ones, picking and processing our food, and keeping our economy in motion – should be denied access to care. Among the many steps available to the new administration, we urge you to:

- Ensure health coverage and access to regular medical care for all people, regardless of immigration status, starting with reinstating protections for DACA-eligible residents and rescinding recent harmful regulations that threaten the health and safety of immigrant families, including the “public charge” rule.
- Streamline Medicaid and CHIP eligibility processes to eliminate red-tape barriers to enrolling and maintaining coverage by extending enrollment periods and making enrollment automatic, inclusive, and more stable.
- Make marketplace coverage more affordable, including for people without job-based coverage
- Allow and encourage states to better utilize 1332 and 1115 waivers to improve health coverage options and increase access to a full spectrum of health care services.
- Make meaningful progress toward the goal of enacting comprehensive Medicare coverage for oral health by extending Medicare coverage for “medically necessary oral health care”.

**Bring down health care costs and transform our health care system by ending health industry abuses and prioritizing high-quality, consumer-centered health care.** Now is the time to address the needs of everyday families over powerful special interests. We urge you to:

- Lower prescription drug costs by working with Congress to make meaningful progress toward allowing the government to negotiate for fair and reasonable Medicare drug prices.
- End surprise medical bills that send people into bankruptcy by banning “balanced billing” practices and providing protections to consumers without increasing costs.
- Enact policies that move our health system towards incentivizing affordable, high-quality services centered on outcomes and value instead of volume of care.

The undersigned organizations are committed to doing everything in our power to help you bring to fruition the health care vision that you articulated with such power on the campaign trail. The health of our nation now requires that you follow through on those commitments with swift and bold action. We stand ready to work with you to advance these and other critical health policies that address the urgent health care needs of America’s families.

For any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Jen Taylor, Senior Director for Federal Relations at Families USA: [jtaylor@familiesusa.org](mailto:jtaylor@familiesusa.org), 202-626-0612

Sincerely,
National Organizations

Families USA
ACA Consumer Advocacy
ACCESS
ADAP Advocacy Association
African American Health Alliance
Aging Life Care Association
Allergy & Asthma Network
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alliance for Strong Families and Communities
American Association of Public Health Dentistry
American Association of Suicidology
American Association on Health and Disability
American Geriatrics Society
American Institute of Dental Public Health
American Medical Student Association
American Muslim Health Professionals
American Physical Therapy Association
Association for Community Affiliated Plans
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations (AAPCHO)
Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs
Association of State and Territorial Dental Directors
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Health and Social Care Integration
Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Center for Public Representation

Child Welfare League of America
Children's Health Fund
Children's HealthWatch
Coalition for Hemophilia B
Coalition on Human Needs
Community Access National Network (CANN)
Community Catalyst
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Crohn's & Colitis Foundation
DentaQuest Partnership for Oral Health Advancement
Different Kind Inc
Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa Peace and Justice Office
DPRA Group Llc
Every Mother Counts
Farmworker Justice
First Focus Campaign for Children
FORCE - Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Inc.
Get America Covered
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Global Justice Institute
Health Care Voices
HealthConnect One
HealthHIV
Healthy Schools Campaign
Hemophilia Federation of America
Hispanic Federation
HIV Dental Alliance
H-PPRCT
Human Impact Partners
Human Rights Campaign
Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility
Jon C Burr Foundation
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
Legal Action Center
Little Lobbyists
Long Term Care Community Coalition
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.
Medicaid|Medicare|CHIP Services Dental Association
Medicare Rights Center
MomsRising
NASTAD
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum (NAPAWF)
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association for Rural Mental Health
National Association of Community Health Centers
National Association of Counties
National Association of Free and Charitable Clinics
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Association of School Nurses
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Birth Equity Collaborative
National Black Justice Coalition
National Center for Lesbian Rights
National Center for Transgender Equality
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition of Dentists for Health Equity
National Coalition on Health Care
National Consumers League
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Urban Indian Health
National Dental Association
National Employment Law Project
National Family Support Network
National Health Council
National Immigration Law Center
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Respite Coalition
National Rural Health Association
National WIC Association
National Women's Health Network
National Women's Law Center
Native American Alumni of Harvard University
OCA - Asian American Pacific Advocates
Oral Health Progress and Equity Network (OPEN)
Planned Parenthood Federation of America
Positive Women's Network-USA
Prevent Blindness
Prevention Institute
Primary Care Development Corporation (PCDC)
Provincial Council Clerics of St. Viator
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)

RESULTS
Santa Fe Group
SEIU
Share Our Strength
Society of State Leaders of Health & Physical Education
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)
Swipe Out Hunger
The Arc of the United States
The Coalition for Hemophilia B
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation
The Gerontological Society of America
The National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
The National Assn of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors
The National Coalition for LGBT Health
The Well Project
Treatment Action Group
Treatment Communities of America
Triage Cancer
Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA)
Trust for America’s Health
Union for Reform Judaism
United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation
United States People living with HIV Caucus
United Way Worldwide
Voices for Progress
Young Invincibles

State Organizations
Alabama
AIDS Alabama
Alabama Arise
Community Enabler
Inspire United Appeal Fund

Alaska
Alaska Primary Care Association

Arizona
Asian Pacific Community in Action
Arizona Oral Health Coalition
Child and Family Resources
Children's Action Alliance
Arizona Alliance for Community Health Centers
Unlimited Potential

Arkansas
Community Health Centers of Arkansas
Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families

California
San Fernando Community Health Center
Westside Family Health Center
Los Angeles Regional Food Bank
San Francisco AIDS Foundation
Venice Family Clinic
Orange County United Way
Dientes Community Dental Care
Equality California
CRLA Foundation
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Immigrant Policy Center
CaliforniaHealth+ Advocates
Oasis Legal Services
California Dental Association
The Children’s Partnership
California Health Advocates
California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
Health Access California
Partners in Care Foundation
Alianza Sacramento
California Primary Care Association

**Colorado**
Colorado School Medicaid Consortium
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Colorado Children's Campaign
Colorado Community Health Network
Colorado Covering Kids and Families
Center for Health Progress

**Connecticut**
Universal Health Care Foundation of Connecticut
Ministerial Health Fellowship Advisory
National Association of Social Workers, CT Chapter

**District of Columbia**
Rebuilding Independence My Style
No Justice No Pride
Mamatoto Village
DC Coalition on Long Term Care
TENAC (D.C. Tenants' Advocacy Coalition)
Empower DC
Bread for the City

**Delaware**
Christian Council of Delmarva
Westside Family Healthcare

**Florida**
Florida Policy Institute
Florida Voices for Health
#Impact

**Georgia**
Benevis Dental Practice Management Services
Not One More Life, Inc.
Georgians for a Healthy Future
Georgia Watch

**Hawai’i**
Hawaii Public Health Institute
Hawai’i Children's Action Network
Hawai’i Oral Health Coalition

**Illinois**
University YMCA New American Welcome Center
Enlace Chicago
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
EverThrive Illinois
AIDS Foundation Chicago
Heartland Alliance
Protect Our Care Illinois
Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIR)
Legal Council for Health Justice

**Iowa**
SALUD-Multicultural Health Coalition of Storm Lake

**Kansas**
Community Care Network of Kansas
Kansas Advocates for Better Care
Oral Health Kansas

**Kentucky**
McNary Group
Kentucky Voices for Health
Kentucky Equal Justice Center

**Louisiana**
Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families
Louisiana Primary Care Association
EXCELth, Inc.

**Maine**
Maine Equal Justice
Maine Primary Care Association

**Maryland**
Laurel Advocacy and Referral Services, Inc.
Neighbors Rising
Elizabeth Cooney Care Network
Public Justice Center
High Note Consulting, LLC
United Seniors of Maryland
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence- Maryland Chapter
Maryland Citizens’ Health Initiative
Maryland Dental Action Coalition

**Massachusetts**
Health Care For All - Massachusetts
Rosie’s Place
R2H Action [Right to Health]

**Michigan**
Detroit Community Health Connection
Community Housing Network, Inc.
United Way for Southeastern Michigan
Community Welfare Services of Metro Detroit
Michigan League for Public Policy
United Health Organization

**Minnesota**
Minnesota Association of Community Health Centers
Minnesota Oral Health Coalition
TakeAction Minnesota
West Central Initiative

**Mississippi**
Mississippi Center for Justice

**Missouri**
Missouri Health Care For All
Missouri Budget Project

**Montana**
Montana Women Vote

**Nebraska**
A VOICE for the Reduction of Poverty in Nashville and Beyond
Nashville Jewish Social Justice Roundtable
Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Tennessee Justice Center

Texas
Children's Defense Fund - Texas
Every Texan (formerly CPPP)
Human Rights Initiative of North Texas
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)
National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter
Reflection International Ministries
Texas Council on Family Violence

Utah
Association for Utah Community Health
Senior Charity Care Foundation
Voices for Utah Children
Utah Health Policy Project

Vermont
Office of the Health Care Advocate, Vermont Legal Aid

Virginia
Virginia Organizing
Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Virginia Health Catalyst
Virginia Poverty Law Center
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations
The National Korean American Service and Education Consortium - Virginia (NAKASEC VA)

Washington
International Community Health Services
Northwest Health Law Advocates
Toppenish Community Chest
Bermuda Associates LLC
Sheng-Yen Lu Foundation (SYL Foundation)

West Virginia
West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice
Citizen Action of Wisconsin

Wyoming
Wyoming Community Foundation