

February 10, 2021

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
House Minority Leader
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McConnell and Leader McCarthy:

We ask you to help recently unemployed or furloughed Americans affected by the pandemic keep their employment-based health coverage while we weather this unprecedented public health and economic crisis. As you did in 2009 and as President Biden recommended in his “American Rescue Plan,” you can ensure Americans have access to affordable, comprehensive health care coverage by including funding for temporary COBRA continuation coverage in the next COVID relief package. The undersigned stakeholders represent employers, labor, consumer groups, faith-based organizations, patient groups, health care providers and others who stand ready to work with you to achieve this shared goal.

Providing families with the security of health coverage should be a priority during the pandemic. While we hope full economic recovery is near, many individuals are still facing reduced hours, lay-offs and furloughs that may affect their ability to pay for the health coverage they trust and want to keep. By supporting robust COBRA continuation coverage, including continuation coverage for churches and faith-based organizations, we can help families keep their current doctors, treatment plans and health coverage during this crisis. Everyone in the health care system benefits from extended employment-based health coverage, from patients to providers, especially as the system faces unprecedented strain.

Supporting continuation coverage is a bipartisan idea that has been embraced by members on both sides of the aisle. We all want to get America’s economy thriving and back to work and school. Until we are safe from the public health and economic threats of COVID-19, it’s time to give Americans the peace of mind that comes with maintaining affordable health insurance.

Let’s work together to keep families healthy and secure by supporting temporary COBRA continuation health coverage.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alliance to Fight for Health Care
Alternative Benefit Concepts
American Benefits Council
American Conference of Cantors
American Federation of Teachers
America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)
ASAE
Associated General Contractors
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA

The Association of Union Constructors
Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Miller's International Union
Balanced Rock Insurance Agency, Inc.
Blasingame Insurance
Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
The Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church USA
Brighthouse Financial
California Schools VEBA
CancerCare
Central Conference of American Rabbis
Children's Hospital Association
Christian Churches Pension Plan
Church Alliance
Church of God Benefits Board, Inc.
Church Pension Group
Coleman County Telephone Cooperative
Communications Workers of America
Council for Affordable Health Coverage
The Council of Insurance Agents and Brokers
CVSHealth
Drywall & Interior Systems Contractors Association of NJ
Employers Council on Flexible Compensation
Federation of American Hospitals
Florida Alliance for Retired Americans
Health Action Council
Healthcare Leadership Council
HealthEquity, Inc.
Houston Business Coalition on Health
IKEA Purchasing Services (US) Inc.
Indiana Chamber of Commerce
International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE)
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Brotherhood of Boilermakers
The International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace and Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)
Kaiser Permanente
Midwest Business Group on Health
Minnesota Assoc of Health Underwriters
National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
National Association of Dental Plans
National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors (NAIFA)
National Coordinating Committee for Multiemployer Plans
National Education Association
National Electrical Contractors Association
Nevada State Association of Health Underwriters
O.C.A.
Ohio Society of Association Executives
PayFlex Systems USA, Inc.
Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association
Pension Fund of the Christian Church
Penske Transportation Services
Piper Jordan
Portico Benefit Services | A ministry of the ELCA
Princeton HR Solutions, LLC
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
Purchaser Business Group on Health
Quest Diagnostics

Reform Pension Board
Sage Benefit Advisors
Sazerac
Scheffler Electric Corp.
Signatory Wall & Ceiling Contractors Alliance
SMART
Society of Professional Benefit Administrators
Sperry Rail, Inc.
Toyota of Irving
Union for Reform Judaism
UNITE HERE
United Brotherhood of Carpenters
United States of Care
United Steelworkers
Veritiv Corporation
WAHU - Washington Association of Health Underwriters
Watkins Group
WEX, Inc.
White Pine Chamber of Commerce
White Pine Horse Races Association
Willis Towers Watson