

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 27, 2020

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

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

As you work to develop the next package of relief and recovery measures to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you repeal the cap on federal Medicaid funding for the U.S. Territories.

The coronavirus pandemic is exposing the gaps in our national healthcare system like never before. One of those gaps is that our national Medicaid program does not reach all Americans with full coverage. Unlike the states, which have unlimited federal funding, American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands each has a limit on annual funding set by law.

We have already acknowledged that deficiency, in part, with provisions in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act that created equity between the states and the U.S. Territories with respect to the federal-local match for Medicaid. Families First also provided additional federal dollars for the territorial Medicaid programs.

The territorial programs, however, still operate under an absolute cap for Medicaid assistance. No matter how many fall ill, no matter how costly or prolonged their treatment, that cap will always limit care in the U.S. Territories.

By repealing the cap, we will be doing more than just ensuring there are sufficient resources to face the coronavirus crisis. We will be setting up the healthcare systems in the U.S. Territories to respond to the next public health challenge, whatever it may be. Most important of

all, we will ensure that those with the smallest incomes with no access to other insurance receive the care that will keep them healthy and help ward off debilitating disease.

We will also be providing a level of certainty to healthcare providers – in the public and private sector – that will encourage investment in the health care industry in the U.S. Territories, which by any measure lags the rest of the nation. And by doing so we will create a cycle of improved quality of care powered by improved health care access that will benefit all at every income level.

Today, we are confronted by a terrible health crisis. Surely, we can beat COVID-19, but we can also do more. We can use this time to recognize that we must also work together to create a system for tomorrow that safeguards the health of all Americans.

Every jurisdiction must be afforded the opportunity to recover and build resilience. For the U.S. Territories, it starts with revoking restrictive health policies found in no other state.

Sincerely,



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Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Vice Chair for Insular Affairs  
House Committee on Natural Resources



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Raúl M. Grijalva  
Chair  
House Committee on Natural Resources



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Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen  
Member of Congress



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Michael F. Q. San Nicolas  
Member of Congress



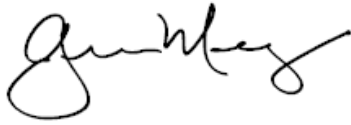
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Stacey E. Plaskett  
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Jennifer González-Colón  
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Grace Meng  
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José E. Serrano  
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Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress



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Alan Lowenthal  
Member of Congress



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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez  
Member of Congress



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Tulsi Gabbard  
Member of Congress



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Rosa L. DeLauro  
Member of Congress



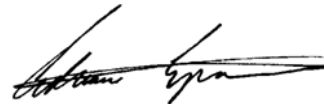
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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Ed Case  
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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Grace F. Napolitano  
Member of Congress



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TJ Cox  
Member of Congress



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Emanuel Cleaver  
Member of Congress



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Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress



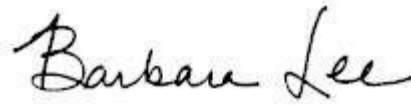
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Ruben Gallego  
Member of Congress



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Jim Costa  
Member of Congress




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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Darren Soto  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress