

National
MLTSS
Health Plan Association

May 20, 2019

The Honorable Joe Kennedy
House of Representatives
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Kennedy:

On behalf of the National MLTSS Health Plan Association, I am writing to express our support for the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act of 2019*. Your leadership will ensure that Americans who need Medicaid and CHIP will have continuous health care coverage, which will help improve the efficiency and continuity of care for tens of millions of individuals on these programs. We look forward to working with you to make this legislation a reality.

The MLTSS Association is concerned that millions of people enroll in Medicaid and CHIP each year, only to subsequently lose their coverage – despite still being eligible– because of inefficient and cumbersome paperwork and other reporting requirements. In addition, many individuals lose their coverage due to short-term income fluctuations which may create a disincentive for earning higher incomes. These coverage disruptions negatively affect the continuity and effectiveness of health care received, and can seriously impact the health status of these individuals.

Of equal importance is the fact that these interruptions in coverage result in higher avoidable administrative costs for states, providers and health plans. Many hospitals, physicians and plans hire workers who spend most or all of their time on eligibility verification and assistance. Streamlining eligibility re-verification requirements would free up significant resources better devoted to the clinical arena.

Your proposal for a 12-month continuous enrollment period will dramatically improve continuity of coverage for enrollees. We also believe that, at a time when states and local agencies are looking for solutions to reduce administrative cost burdens, 12-month continuous enrollment will help to further reduce administrative expenses caused by the cycle of enrollment and disenrollment, or “churning,” in the Medicaid program.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this important piece of legislation. The *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act* offers a common-sense solution to modernize the Medicaid and CHIP programs and we are happy to lend our support for this legislation. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,



G. Lawrence Atkins
Executive Director