

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer:

As members of the North Carolina Democratic Delegation, we write to urge you to maintain provisions to close the coverage gap in Build Back Better (BBB) legislation as negotiations in Congress continue. Closing the coverage gap will reduce longstanding racial inequities, improve public health, and provide security to the 2.2 million low-income Americans who currently fall into the Medicaid gap.

North Carolina is one of 12 states that has not expanded Medicaid. The ensuing coverage gap has left approximately 500,000 people throughout the state without access to affordable, quality health care. Importantly, an estimated 60 percent of those in the Medicaid coverage gap nationwide are people of color. Leaving this gap unaddressed exacerbates existing health disparities in minority communities and hurts some of our most vulnerable populations. This includes rural communities, which are home to roughly 40 percent of those within the coverage gap in North Carolina.

We ask you to address these fundamental inequities in BBB legislation through a permanent and comprehensive coverage gap solution. In the version of the Build Back Better Act that passed the House last year, families with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for subsidized coverage through the Affordable Care Act Marketplace, with no premiums and minimal deductibles. We urge you to preserve these provisions or similar coverage gap solutions as BBB negotiations continue.

Medicaid expansion has served as a lifeline for millions of Americans living in the 38 states that have chosen to prioritize the wellbeing of their residents. Congress must provide this same protection for the 2.2 million Americans without coverage by maintaining the Medicaid gap provisions currently outlined in BBB.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress



Kathy Manning
Member of Congress



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



David E. Price
Member of Congress