



September 28, 2023

The Honorable Lisa Blunt Rochester  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Brian Fitzpatrick  
 United States House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Blunt Rochester and Fitzpatrick:

We write in strong support of H.R. 4775, the Helping Tobacco Users Quit Act, legislation that will ensure that all Medicaid and Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) enrollees have access to the full array of evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments, including all Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications. Smoking rates are particularly high among people enrolled in Medicaid. Helping individuals who use tobacco to quit should be a critical component of the nation’s efforts to combat the deadly consequences of tobacco use.

Tobacco use is a key driver of poor health outcomes and health costs for Medicaid. Medicaid enrollees smoke at more than twice the rate of adults with private health insurance, which increases their risk of at least 12 cancers, cardiovascular disease, COPD, Type 2 diabetes, and other tobacco-related diseases. In addition to harming health, high rates of tobacco use also lead to higher health care costs. Smoking-related diseases account for approximately \$72.7 billion in annual Medicaid costs.

Most individuals who use tobacco products want to quit, and Medicaid and CHIP enrollees who use tobacco should have access to treatments that give them the best chance to quit successfully. But while all states provide some level of tobacco cessation coverage for Medicaid enrollees, many state Medicaid programs do not cover all evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments and include barriers, like cost

sharing and prior authorization requirements, to accessing coverage. According to the most recent data, only 20 states covered all seven FDA-approved tobacco cessation medications as well as group and individual cessation counseling, and only three of these states covered all treatments without barriers to access.

Your bill addresses these gaps in coverage by extending comprehensive tobacco cessation coverage to all Medicaid and CHIP beneficiaries. It would also reduce barriers to accessing this coverage by eliminating cost sharing and prior authorization requirements. For the five years following enactment of the legislation, the bill would provide enhanced federal funding to cover 90 percent of the cost of the benefit as well as state outreach campaigns to educate providers and Medicaid and CHIP enrollees about the benefit.

Expanding coverage of tobacco cessation treatments can pay dividends in terms of improved health and lower health care costs. After Massachusetts expanded its Medicaid tobacco cessation coverage and conducted a campaign to educate Medicaid enrollees and providers about the enhanced coverage, smoking rates among Medicaid enrollees decreased from 38 percent to 28 percent over a two-and-a-half-year period. Every dollar the state invested in its Medicaid tobacco cessation benefit and awareness campaign resulted in \$3.12 in health care savings from reduced hospitalizations.

Quitting is one of the most important actions individuals who use tobacco can take to improve their health, and Medicaid and CHIP should assist enrollees who want to quit. We applaud you for introducing legislation that would ensure that all Medicaid and CHIP enrollees have barrier-free coverage of evidence-based tobacco cessation treatments. We appreciate your leadership on this issue and look forward to working with you to advance this legislation.

Sincerely,

Academy of General Dentistry	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
African American Tobacco Control Leadership Council	American College of Physicians
Allergy & Asthma Network	American College of Preventive Medicine
American Academy of Family Physicians	American Dental Association
American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery	American Federation of Teachers
American Academy of Pediatrics	American Heart Association
American Association for Cancer Research	American Lung Association
American Association for Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Research	American Medical Association
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network	American Medical Student Association
American College of Cardiology	American Nonsmokers' Rights
American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST)	American Pharmacists Association
	American Society of Addiction Medicine

American Thoracic Society

Asian Pacific Partners for Empowerment, Advocacy and Leadership (APPEAL)

Association for Clinical Oncology

Association for the Treatment of Tobacco Use and Dependence

Association of Black Women Physicians

Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs

Association of State and Territorial Health Officials

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Bayard Rustin Liberation Initiative

Big Cities Health Coalition

Breathe Southern California

CADCA

Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids

Cancer Prevention Treatment Fund

Catholic Health Association of the United States, The

Commissioned Officers Association of the USPHS

COPD Foundation

Emphysema Foundation of America

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America, Inc.

First Focus Campaign for Children

For Future Lungs

GLMA: Health Professionals Advancing LGBTQ+ Equality

GO2 for Lung Cancer

Healthy Americas Foundation

IntelliQuit

Leadership Council for Healthy Communities

LUNGevery Foundation

March of Dimes

National Alliance for Hispanic Health

National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health, The

National Association of Hispanic Nurses

National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners

National Association of School Nurses

National Association of Social Workers

National Black Nurses Association, Inc

National Hispanic Medical Association

National LGBT Cancer Network

National Network of Public Health Institutes

North American Quitline Consortium

Oncology Nursing Society, The

Parents Against Vaping E-Cigarettes

Preventing Tobacco Addiction Foundation/Tobacco 21

Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association

Respiratory Health Association

Right 2 Breathe

Save A Girl Save A World

Society for Cardiovascular Angiography & Interventions

Society for Public Health Education

Society for Research on Nicotine and Tobacco

Society of Thoracic Surgeons, The

University of Wisconsin Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention