



**ALLIANCE of  
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HOSPITALS**

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April 25, 2023

## **Please Oppose the Proposal to Limit Access to Medicaid in the House Debt Ceiling Bill**

Dear Representative Mace:

I am writing on behalf of the Alliance of Safety-Net Hospitals (ASH) to ask you to reject a provision in the House debt ceiling bill – the Limit, Save, Grow Act of 2023 – that would impose work requirements on Medicaid beneficiaries.

ASH supports and appreciates the effort to raise the federal debt limit but we strongly oppose any attempt to reduce access to health care for low-income, uninsured, and unemployed individuals and their families. There could not be a worse time for such a new requirement: the current unwinding of continuous Medicaid eligibility established in response to the soon-to-end public health emergency will result in as many as 14 million Americans losing their Medicaid coverage and access to health care, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Now is not a time to increase further the number of Americans who lack access to care.

In addition, Kaiser notes that the majority of adult Medicaid beneficiaries already work and that most of those who do not work face serious barriers to employment, such as poor health and functional disabilities. We should not make the challenges such individuals already face even worse by eliminating their access to much-needed health care.

We speak from experience when we express concern about the effect such a policy would have on low-income Americans: ASH hospitals work tirelessly to ensure equitable access to care for the medically vulnerable residents of the generally low-income communities they serve. A Medicaid work requirement would make our work harder, but more important, it would make the lives of the residents of our communities immeasurably worse.

Again, we support your efforts to address the debt ceiling but believe reducing access to health care by imposing Medicaid work requirements should not be part of any plan to do so. For this reason we urge you to oppose inclusion of a Medicaid work requirement in the House debt ceiling bill.

Sincerely,

Kate Finkelstein  
Director, Government Affairs