



December 19, 2022

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

It has been nearly three years since the federal government has declared a national emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. While the virus will be with us for some time, the emergency phase of the pandemic is behind us. We have come so far since the beginning of the pandemic – we now have the tools and information necessary to help protect our communities from COVID-19. You recognized this yourself in a 60 Minutes interview in September when you said, “The pandemic is over.” Additionally, the United States Senate passed a bipartisan resolution, 61-37, to terminate the national emergency on November 15, 2022. We agree with both your statement and the Senate’s resolution – it is time we move on from the pandemic and get back to life as normal.

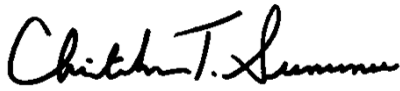
On top of the national emergency, the Federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) has been extended until at least January 11, 2023. Since states have not received notice the PHE will expire in January, we are acting under the assumption that it will be renewed for 90 days and expire in April 2023, unless it is extended again. We ask that you allow the PHE to expire in April and provide states with much needed certainty well in advance of its expiration.

The PHE is negatively affecting states, primarily by artificially growing our population covered under Medicaid (both traditional and expanded populations), regardless of whether individuals continue to be eligible under the program. While the enhanced federal match provides some assistance to blunt the increasing costs due to higher enrollment numbers in our Medicaid programs, states are required to increase our non-federal match to adequately cover all enrollees and cannot disenroll members from the program unless they do so voluntarily. Making the situation worse, we know that a considerable number of individuals have returned to employer sponsored coverage or are receiving coverage through the individual market, and yet states still must still account and pay for their Medicaid enrollment in our non-federal share. This is costing states hundreds of millions of dollars.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, states have added 20 million individuals to the Medicaid rolls (an increase of 30%) and those numbers continue to climb as the PHE continues to be extended every 90 days.

We urge you to end the national emergency and the PHE in April and provide states notice of those intentions well in advance to allow us to adequately plan for the future.

Sincerely,



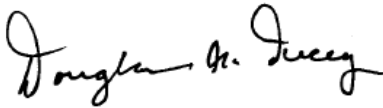
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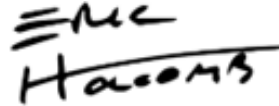
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State of Idaho



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State of Indiana



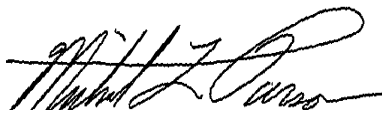
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