



June 13th, 2022

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer,

As Members of the New Democrat Coalition, we write today to underline the importance of enacting legislation to lower health care costs without delay. Insurance premiums are being set as we write, and we fully anticipate that our constituents will see a dramatic rise in their premiums this October, on our watch. We need action now to address costs, especially when Americans are struggling with broad price increases. As you continue to craft a reconciliation package, New Dems urge the inclusion of our health care [reconciliation priorities](#) of extending the enhanced advanced premium tax credits and filling the coverage gap in non-Medicaid expansion states.

New Dems were proud to [unanimously](#) support the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), which built on the success of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to bring down health care costs for consumers in the wake of COVID-19. But the impacts of the pandemic persist and are now compounded by the high costs of everything else. COVID continues to burden our health care system, and many people are just beginning to catch up on routine appointments. A [recent report](#) found that more than 1 in 5 adults with COVID are plagued with Long COVID. At the same time, our country is facing a mental health crisis. Health insurance coverage is a lifeline to care for our constituents.

Last year, thanks to the passage of the ARPA, New Dems delivered historic progress in increasing health care coverage and lowering costs. The enhanced advanced premium tax credits brought historic [record](#) enrollment on the ACA exchange as coverage became more affordable than ever. On average, monthly premiums for marketplace plans [decreased](#) by \$50 per person and families saved an average of \$2400 on their annual premiums with four out of five consumers finding quality coverage for under \$10 a month.

Without Congressional action this fall to extend the advanced premium tax credits, millions of Americans face the prospect of losing health care coverage or seeing their premiums spike. Premiums are [expected](#) to increase by 53% for the 14 million people who buy their insurance from health insurance marketplaces. Failure to extend the enhanced advanced premium tax credits would result in a [projected](#) 3 million people on the ACA Marketplace becoming uninsured and 9.4 million people seeing dramatic increases in their annual premiums. With prices rising broadly, our constituents cannot afford these increased health insurance costs. This

cannot happen on our watch, and we must cement our progress by enacting a budget reconciliation package that includes the enhanced advanced premium tax credits to keep costs down for Americans.

We urge that any reconciliation legislation include language extending coverage to Americans living in the Medicaid coverage gap. Republican-led states' refusal to expand Medicaid under the ACA have deprived [millions of Americans](#) Medicaid coverage and benefits. Inclusion of these provisions are critical to increasing coverage and reducing health disparities that have disproportionately impacted people of color.

We thank you for your leadership and stand ready to work with you to deliver on the progress we have made for the American people. Our health care priorities of extending the enhanced advanced premium tax credits and filling the coverage gap in non-Medicaid expansion states have wide support throughout the Democratic Caucus, and we cannot let this opportunity to build on our progress go by.

Sincerely,



Rep. Kim Schrier, M.D.
Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Terri A. Sewell
Co-Chair, Health Care Task Force
New Democrat Coalition



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Chair
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Rep. Scott Peters
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Rep. Sharice L. Davids
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Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
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Rep. Ami Bera
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Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
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Rep. Bradley S. Schneider
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Rep. Stacey E. Plaskett
Leadership Member
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Rep. Derek Kilmer
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