

April 20, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Congress Must Fund Health Care, Not Attacks on Immigrants and Communities

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, and Members of Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned 194 health advocacy organizations and allies, we urge Congress to prioritize addressing the health care affordability crisis and protecting vital health care programs rather than funding weaponized immigration agencies wreaking havoc in our communities. At a time when health care costs are skyrocketing, Congress should be supporting communities by strengthening Medicaid, restoring and extending enhanced premium tax credits for Marketplace coverage, as well as ensuring access to preventive, sexual, and reproductive health care. Instead, by enacting H.R. 1 last summer, President Trump and his allies in Congress cut¹ Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), and Marketplace coverage by more than a trillion dollars in order to dramatically expand² funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) violent mass deportation, detention, family separation, and anti-democracy efforts.

¹ *By the numbers: Harmful Republican megabill will take health coverage away from millions of people and raise families' costs.* Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. (2025, August 27). <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/by-the-numbers-harmful-republican-megabill-will-take-health-coverage-away-from>

² Chappell, B. (2026, January 21). *How ICE grew to be the highest-funded U.S. Law Enforcement Agency.* NPR. <https://www.npr.org/2026/01/21/nx-s1-5674887/ice-budget-funding-congress-trump>

The health consequences of these decisions are neither speculative nor abstract. Already in 2026, more than a million people have lost access to care, and millions more who previously relied on enhanced premium tax credits are paying on average an additional \$1,000 for premiums.³ The Congressional Budget Office estimated that the number of people without health insurance will increase by more than 14 million by 2034 as a result of H.R. 1's health insurance program cuts and the expiration of enhanced premium tax credits.⁴ Scientists at Yale University and the University of Pennsylvania warned that the cuts along with the failure to extend enhanced premium tax credits will cause over 51,000 preventable deaths annually.⁵

Leading⁶ medical and public health experts⁷ have also warned⁸ that immigration enforcement policies that drive fear,⁹ detention,¹⁰ and family separation directly worsen health outcomes and deepen existing inequities. People, including toddlers and older adults, in detention face alarming barriers to health care services and prescriptions for health conditions, jeopardizing their health and lives.¹¹ Pregnant and postpartum people in immigration detention face delayed treatment,

³ Lukens, G., & Zhang, E. (2025, November 3). *Health insurance premium spikes imminent as tax credit enhancements set to expire*. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/health-insurance-premium-spikes-imminent-as-tax-credit-enhancements-set-to-expire>

⁴ Burns, A., Ortaliza, J., Lo, J., & Rae, M. (2025, August 20). *How will the 2025 reconciliation law affect the uninsured rate in each state?*. KFF. <https://www.kff.org/uninsured/how-will-the-2025-reconciliation-law-affect-the-uninsured-rate-in-each-state/>

⁵ Robbins, J. (2025, June 25). *Yale scientists warn Medicaid cuts could cause 51,000 preventable deaths*. Yale Daily News. <https://yaledailynews.com/blog/2025/06/26/yale-scientists-warn-medicaid-cuts-could-cause-51000-preventable-deaths/>

⁶ Aizuss, D. H. (2026, January 26). *AMA statement on Immigration Enforcement at hospitals [Press Release]*. American Medical Association. <https://www.ama-assn.org/press-center/ama-press-releases/ama-statement-immigration-enforcement-hospitals>

⁷ *American Academy of Nursing response to federal enforcement tactics as a public health concern*. American Academy of Nursing. (2026, January 26). <https://aannet.org/news/718885/American-Academy-of-Nursing-Response-to-Federal-Enforcement-Tactics-as-a-Public-Health-Concern.htm>

⁸ Choi, J. (2026, February 4). *Leading OB/GYN organization recommends clinicians protect immigrants*. The Hill. <https://thehill.com/newsletters/health-care/5723439-leading-ob-gyn-organization-recommends-clinicians-protect-immigrants/>

⁹ Tusinski, D., & Cloteaux, S. (2026, January 28). *ICE agents shatter window, leave 1-month-old baby, mother in car after Portland arrest*. The Portland Press Herald. <https://www.pressherald.com/2026/01/28/ice-agents-shatter-window-leave-1-month-old-baby-mother-in-car-after-portland-arrest/?uuid=8322f2e4-2ac1-48fb-8e7c-0e0ac94b5378&lid=222199>

¹⁰ *Immigration detention is harmful to health – alternatives to detention should be used*. World Health Organization. (2022, May 4). <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/04-05-2022-immigration-detention-is-harmful-to-health---alternatives-to-detention-should-be-used>

¹¹ Hixenbaugh, M. (2026, February 7). *Toddler hospitalized with respiratory failure was returned to ICE detention and denied prescribed medication, lawsuit says*. NBC News.

inadequate medical care, and conditions fundamentally incompatible with safe pregnancy and recovery.¹² Obstetricians and gynecologists report that patients are delaying or forgoing prenatal and postnatal care, skipping cancer screenings and STI testing, and losing access to essential abortion, family planning, and pregnancy-related care out of fear of enforcement or loss of coverage.¹³

These harms are compounded by the elimination of long-standing “sensitive locations” protections.¹⁴ By allowing ICE and CBP to conduct enforcement at or near health care facilities, schools, and other essential community spaces, the administration has transformed places of care and safety into sources of fear. Individuals are forced into impossible choices between their health and their safety. Providers are placed in untenable positions, unable to assure patients that seeking care will not expose them or their loved ones to detention or deportation. The predictable result is a chilling effect on care that endangers the public’s health and hurts families.

These outcomes are not incidental. As the wealthiest country in the world, we should not have a health care affordability crisis, health insurance coverage gaps, or a maternal mortality epidemic. Exacerbating these challenges by pouring tens of billions of dollars into ICE and CBP’s escalating attacks on both immigrant families and individuals exercising their constitutionally protected right to free speech is a political choice. Congress must swiftly act to address skyrocketing health care costs and protect access to health care for all. We call on Congress to:

- Repeal the immigration enforcement funding provisions of H.R. 1 and claw back funds appropriated to ICE and CBP at the expense of health care and basic needs programs.
- Reverse efforts that make it harder for people to access health care, including cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, CHIP, and ACA Marketplace coverage; and access to providers, such as Planned Parenthood and other providers of sexual and reproductive health care.

<https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/toddler-hospitalized-dilley-ice-detention-rcna257912>; Brief for Justice in Aging as Amicus Curiae in Support of Plaintiff at 1, *Rodriguez-Vasquez v. Bostock*, No. 25-6842 (9th Cir. Jan. 28, 2026), <https://justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/2026-01-28-Dkt-42-1-FILED-Rodriguez-Vasquez-Amicus-Brief.pdf>.

¹² Sainato, M. (2025, August 6). “Horrific”: report reveals abuse of pregnant women and children at US ICE facilities. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/06/physical-sexual-abuse-pregnant-women-children-immigration-centers>

¹³ Barclay, M. L., & Luthra, S. (2025, October 7). *ICE fears put pregnant immigrants and their babies at risk*. *The 19th*. <https://19thnews.org/2025/10/pregnant-immigrants-ice-fears-deportation/>

¹⁴ Pearson, L. D. (2025, February 26). *Factsheet: Trump’s rescission of protected areas policies undermines safety for all*. National Immigration Law Center.

<https://www.nilc.org/resources/factsheet-trumps-rescission-of-protected-areas-policies-undermines-safety-for-all/>

- Strengthen the above health care programs, including closing Medicaid coverage gaps and restoring and extending enhanced premium tax credits for Marketplace coverage.
- Demand meaningful and enforceable measures to rein in ICE and CBP and require compliance with civil rights laws, medical standards of care, and due process as a condition of any further DHS funding.

At this moment, Congress faces a clear choice. It can continue misusing taxpayer dollars to fund attacks on immigrants and communities instead of funding health care—cutting and chilling health care access, putting lives at risk, and deepening health inequities—or it can act to restore and improve health care coverage and safety for individuals, families, and communities across the country. Health care access is a prerequisite for dignity, imperative for national security, and vital for freedom.

There is no justification for cutting care to fund cruelty. Congress must act now to fund health care, protect communities, and end policies that weaponize fear and undermine the health of our communities.

If we can provide any assistance on this matter, please contact Mia Villaseñor, Senior Specialist, Legislative Affairs at Planned Parenthood Action Fund (mia.villasenor@ppfa.org) and Madeline Morcelle, Senior Attorney at the National Health Law Program (morcelle@healthlaw.org).

Sincerely,

National Organizations

National Abortion Federation
 Abortion Access Front
 Abortion Care Network
 Advocates for Youth
 AFT: Education, Healthcare, Public Services
 AIDS United
 All* Above All
 Allies for Independence
 American Atheists
 American College of Nurse-Midwives
 APRADE
 Autistic People of Color Fund
 Autistic Self Advocacy Network
 Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
 Bayard Rustin Center for Social Justice
 BMMA, Inc. (Black Mamas Matter Alliance)
 BLKHLTH
 Caring Across Generations
 Castle Consulting
 Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP)

CenterLink
Clearinghouse on Women's Issues
Color of Change
Community Catalyst
Defend Public Health
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Doctors for America
Drug Policy Alliance
Empowering Pacific Islander Communities (EPIC)
Feminist Majority
First Focus Campaign for Children
Guttmacher Institute
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Health Care for America Now
HealthConnect One
Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, USA-JPIC
Ibis Reproductive Health
ICAN! (Implementing Contraceptive Access Now)
If/When/How: Lawyering for Reproductive Justice
Indigenous Women Rising
Institute for Policy Studies, National Priorities Project
Institute for Women's Policy Research
interACT: Advocates for Intersex Youth
Ipas
Jobs With Justice
Justice in Aging
Latino Commission on AIDS
Legal Action Center
Medical Students for Choice
Mi Familia Vota
MomsRising
NAACP
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Certified Professional Midwives
National Association of Social Workers
National Center for Youth Law
National Council of Jewish Women
National Education Association
National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Health Law Program
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice
National Network for Arab American Communities
National Network of Abortion Funds
National Network to End Domestic Violence
National Organization for Women

National Partnership for Women & Families
National Urban League
National Women's Law Center
National Women's Political Caucus
NBJC
Organization for Latino Health Advocacy
People Power United
Physicians for Reproductive Health
Planned Parenthood Action Fund
Popular Democracy
Positive Women's Network-USA
Power to Decide
PrEP4All
Prevention Institute
Pride At Work
Progressive Vietnamese American Organization (PIVOT)
Protect Our Care
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
Religious Community for Reproductive Choice
Reproaction
Reproductive Freedom for All
Reproductive Health Access Project
Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus
SEIU
SiX Action
Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine
Society for Public Health Education
South Asian Public Health Association (SAPHA)
Stop AAPI Hate
TechTonic Justice
UCSF Bixby Center for Global Reproductive Health
Unrig Our Economy
URGE: Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity
Voices for Progress
Voices of Health Care Action
Women Lawyers On Guard Action Network
Women's March

Arizona-Based Organizations

William E. Morris Institute for Justice
Arizonans For Reproductive Freedom

Arkansas-Based Organizations

Arkansas Black Gay Men's Forum

California-Based Organizations

ACCESS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE
Ahri Center
Alliance for TransYouth Rights
Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California
Atheists United
California Association of Nurse Midwives
California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative
California Latinas for Reproductive Justice
California LGBTQ Health and Human Services Network
California Pan-Ethnic Health Network
California Women's Law Center
Disability Rights California
Equality California
Health Access California
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Maternal and Child Health Access
Oasis Legal Services
Pacific Asian Counseling Services
PRC
SWANS
The Children's Partnership (TCP)
Western Center on Law & Poverty

Colorado-Based Organizations

Alianza NORCO
Elephant Circle
Cobalt
Colorado Center on Law and Policy
Colorado Consumer Health Initiative
Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains Action Fund
Rocky Mountain Equality

Florida-Based Organizations

Access Ready Inc.
Florida Health Justice Project
Florida Chapter of National Organization for Women (FL NOW)

Georgia-Based Organizations

Frey Evaluation, LLC
Health Students Taking Action Together (H-STAT GA)
Serving at-risk families everywhere, Inc.
SisterLove, Inc.

Hawaii-Based Organizations

Hawaii Children's Action Network Speaks!

Illinois-Based Organizations

Chicago Abortion Fund
Defend Public Health, Ohio Chapter
Health & Medicine Policy Research Group
Legal Council for Health Justice
SisterReach Illinois

Louisiana-Based Organizations

Lift Louisiana

Maine-Based Organizations

Maine Equal Justice
Maine Women's Lobby

Maryland-Based Organizations

Advance Maryland
Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence
Public Justice Center

Massachusetts-Based Organizations

Health Law Advocates
Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice (also located in Rhode Island)
Massachusetts Law Reform Institute (MLRI)
Massachusetts Physicians for National Health Care Program
Personal Disability Consulting, Inc.

Michigan-Based Organizations

Center for Civil Justice
Michigan League for Public Policy
Michigan Poverty Law Program
The Lookout Project

Minnesota-Based Organizations

Our Justice
Pro-Choice Minnesota

Nebraska-Based Organizations

Nebraska Appleseed

New Jersey-Based Organizations

ISINMI VILLAGE INC.
New Jersey Citizen Action
WADEIn NJ

New York-Based Organizations

Safety Net Project at the Urban Justice Center
League of Women Voters of St. Lawrence County, NY
New York Legal Assistance Group (NYLAG)

Nevada-Based Organizations

Nevada County Citizens for Choice
Wild West Access Fund

North Carolina-Based Organizations

North Carolina Justice Center
Disability Rights North Carolina

Ohio-Based Organizations

Abortion Forward
New Voices for Reproductive Justice (also located in Pennsylvania)

Pennsylvania-Based Organizations

New Voices for Reproductive Justice (also located in Ohio)
Oshun Family Center
Women's Law Project

Rhode Island-Based Organizations

Legal Key Partnership for Health and Justice (also located in Massachusetts)

Tennessee-Based Organizations

Tennessee Justice Center
SisterReach, Inc.

Texas-Based Organizations

Center for Civic and Public Policy Improvement
Dallas Peace and Justice Center
Every Texan
Jane's Due Process
Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church
Oak Lawn United Methodist Church
Texas Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry (TXUUJM)

Virginia-Based Organizations

Legal Aid Justice Center

Washington-Based Organizations

Northwest Health Law Advocates (NoHLA)

West Virginia-Based Organizations

WV Healthy Start/HAPI

Wisconsin-Based Organizations

Wisconsin Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Kids Forward