

May 17th, 2023

To the Members of the Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation:

As groups that work with hardworking Pennsylvania families, we urge you to reach a compromise on budget negotiations that avoids default while protecting Pennsylvania families.

The most recent House spending bill proposes raising the debt ceiling at the cost of cutting a broad spectrum of social programs, including Medicaid, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), veterans' healthcare services, substance abuse treatment programs, and maternal healthcare programs. **Speaker McCarthy's bill also proposes new work requirements for Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF, federal programs that provide critical services to millions of Pennsylvanians.**

Work requirements do not work. They are costly to administer, are not effective in helping people find employment, create more bureaucracy and red tape, and would result in hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians, including children, unable to purchase groceries. **An estimated 519,000 would lose health coverage if the proposed work requirements were to become law. Most working-age adults who rely on SNAP or Medicaid are already working or are temporarily between jobs.** The bill also proposes cuts, and even more rigid work requirements than those already in place, to TANF, which would put the poorest 28,000 children and 15,000 families who rely on TANF for purchases like diapers, toiletries, and cleaning supplies at risk.

Cuts to these programs would squeeze family budgets amid ongoing inflation, forcing families to pay more for basics like childcare, rent, food, and healthcare and putting these things out of reach for many. **Members of Congress must come together to pass a budget and debt ceiling bill that will avoid the economic harms of a default without harming hardworking Pennsylvania families** that rely on programs like Medicaid, SNAP, and TANF to meet their basic needs.

If you have any questions please reach out to Patrick Keenan at patrick@pahealthaccess.org or at 717-322-5332.

Sincerely,

AccessMatters
ACLAMO
Action Wellness
Allegheny Valley Association of Churches,
Inc.

AOVSG Inc.
Bucks County Women's Advocacy Coalition
Bucks-Mont Collaborative
Care Income Now!
Center for Independent Living of Central PA

City of Philadelphia Office of Community
Empowerment and Opportunity
Coalition for Low Income Pennsylvanians
Community Check-Up Center
Community Connections
Community Justice Project
Community Legal Services
Connexus Human Service Network
Disability Options Network
Every Mother is a Working Mother Network
Family Services of Montgomery County
Foundation for Health Equity
Give Us Back Our Children
Global Women's Strike
Greater Wilkes Barre Labor Council
Grow Pittsburgh
Health, Education, and Legal Assistance
Project: A Medical-Legal
Partnership at Delaware Law School
(HELP: MLP)
Here For Us
Homeless Advocacy Project
Hunger-Free PA
JFCS
Just Harvest
Kohnlinq ,Inc.
Leo and Peggy Pierce Family Foundation
Manna on Main Street
Maternity Care Coalition
Mattie N. Dixon Community Cupboard
Narberth Community Food Bank
Nationalities Service Center
PA Adapt
PA Coalition for Oral Health
Patrician Society
Payday Men's Network
Pennsylvania Health Access Network
Pennsylvania Health Law Project
Philadelphia Chinatown Development
Corporation (PCDC)

Philip Jaisohn Memorial Foundation
Pittsburghers for Public Transit
Poor People's Economic Human Rights
Campaign
Public Interest Law Center
Pyramid Healthcare
RCPA
Siloam
Supportive Behavioral Resources
The Arc of Philadelphia
The Strong Families Commission,
Incorporated (THE COMMISSION)
United Way of Southwestern Pennsylvania
VNA Community Service
Washington Drug and Alcohol Commission
Women of Color in the Global Women's
Strike
Women's Law Project