

April 22, 2019

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
U.S. Senate
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Brown:

On behalf of URAC, a nationally recognized independent healthcare accreditation organization, I am writing to express our support for the *Stabilize Medicaid and CHIP Coverage Act of 2019*. URAC has been accrediting key functional areas of managed care and managed care organizations for nearly 30 years. As such, we are acutely aware of the importance of continuous healthcare coverage, particularly for vulnerable populations like Medicaid and CHIP enrollees.

URAC is concerned that millions of people enroll in Medicaid and CHIP each year, only to subsequently lose their coverage – despite still being eligible – because of inefficient and cumbersome paperwork and other reporting requirements. As a family physician trained in rural medicine, I’ve personally witnessed the struggles vulnerable populations face and believe that adding onerous reporting requirements on top of this is unnecessary.

In addition to losing coverage due to reporting requirements, many individuals lose their coverage due to short-term income fluctuations which may create a disincentive for earning higher incomes. These coverage disruptions negatively impact one’s continuity of care and can seriously impact their health status.

Of equal importance is the fact that these interruptions in coverage result in higher avoidable administrative costs for states, providers and health plans. Many hospitals, physicians and plans hire workers who spend most or all of their time on eligibility verification and assistance. Streamlining eligibility re-verification requirements would free up significant resources better devoted to the clinical arena. As a former chief quality and informatics officer in a large health system, I am very sensitive to administrative burden and the impact it has on patient care.

Your proposal for a 12-month continuous enrollment period will dramatically improve continuity of coverage for enrollees. We also believe that, at a time when states and local agencies are looking for solutions to reduce administrative cost burdens, 12-month continuous enrollment will help to further reduce administrative expenses caused by the cycle of enrollment and disenrollment in the Medicaid program.

Corporate Member Organizations

- America’s Health Insurance Plans
- Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy
- American Association of Preferred Provider Organizations
- American College of Physicians
- American Health Quality Association
- American Hospital Association
- American Insurance Association
- American Medical Association
- American Nurses Association
- American Psychiatric Association
- Blue Cross Blue Shield Association
- Case Management Society of America
- National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions
- National Association of Insurance Commissioners
- Pharmaceutical Care Management Association

Peter Lund, M.D.
Board Chairperson

Shawn Griffin, M.D.
President and CEO

Your leadership on this issue will ensure that Americans who need Medicaid and CHIP will have continuous healthcare coverage, and in turn, improve the efficiency and continuity of care for tens of millions of individuals on these programs. We look forward to working with you to make this legislation a reality. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can ever be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Shawn Griffin, MD

Shawn Griffin, M.D.
President and CEO
URAC