

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 11, 2021

Phillip Swagel
Director
Congressional Budget Office
441 D St. SW
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Director Swagel,

On behalf of the estimated 4.3 million uninsured Americans currently without health care access because of a few states' wrong decision to refuse federal dollars to expand Medicaid coverage, we write requesting an expedient CBO score for the COVER Now Act.

We understand the House Energy & Commerce Committee submitted a score request on May 21st. We urge CBO to prioritize this important request so we may quickly work in Congress to deliver relief to the many residents who would benefit from local coverage expansion programs.

We collectively represent nearly every Democratic district in a non-expansion state, lending our voices in Washington for the most vulnerable. The COVER Now Act represents a pragmatic approach to quickly provide health care coverage to many of our constituents. Many local leaders in our districts stand eager to expand coverage if offered the opportunity.

The unfortunate decision to reject federal dollars offered under the Affordable Care Act and the American Rescue Plan Act to expand coverage has resulted in deepened health inequities, worsened maternal and child outcomes, and hampered efforts to address the behavioral health and substance use crisis. Political ideology, racist bias, and willful indifference has obstructed health care access in our home states. The COVER Now Act provides a pathway for humane and reasonable local leadership to correct the mistakes of state leaders.

We strongly urge you to prioritize providing a score on the COVER Now Act so we may work to enact this critical measure and protect the health of our constituents. We stand ready to answer any questions and offer resources as you work to provide a score.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lloyd Doggett", with a stylized, cursive script.

Lloyd Doggett

Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.

Collin Allred

Carolyn Bourdeaux

Cori Bush

G. K. Butterfield

Emanuel Cleaver

Jim Cooper

Henry Cuellar

Veronica Escobar

Sylvia R. Garcia

Sheila Jackson Lee

Kathy Manning

Deborah K. Ross

Marc Veasey

Nikema Williams

Joaquin Castro

Steve Cohen

Charlie Crist

Ted Deutch

Lizzie Fletcher

Al Green

Eddie Bernice Johnson

David E. Price

Terri A. Sewell

Filemon Vela