



April 21, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

The New Democrat Coalition (NDC) is comprised of 94 forward-looking Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives seeking durable solutions to tackle the challenges and seize the opportunities of the twenty-first century. In the first one hundred days, the NDC has been working to advance policies in the U.S. House of Representatives to ensure people are protected from high health care costs, everyone is covered, and care is easier to access.¹ The NDC has led the charge² to put solutions over politics³ and stabilize and strengthen the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

The ACA has brought health and financial security to millions of Americans and driven the uninsured rate to historic lows by expanding health care coverage to more than 20 million Americans,⁴ securing coverage of critical preventative treatments and screenings, and protecting coverage for over 100 million Americans with preexisting conditions.⁵ In the decade since the ACA's historic passage, our nation has seen better health outcomes and stunted the accelerating costs of health care seen before the ACA.⁶ The consumer protections, targeted cost reductions, investments in state marketplaces, and the expanded and strengthened Medicaid program formed the foundation of the ACA and have given families peace of mind. Despite years of partisan attacks and destabilizing policies that jeopardized access to affordable health coverage and care for millions of Americans, the ACA is more popular and more important than ever. We are grateful for the early action your administration has already taken to reverse many of these harmful policies, protect the ACA, and expand access to affordable health care coverage. We were also proud to support additional critical ACA affordability provisions included in the American Rescue Plan.

Over a decade after the passage of the Obama-Biden administration's landmark health care legislation, we are eager to work with the Biden-Harris administration to fortify and build on the ACA to achieve universal coverage with access to affordable, quality care. Members of the New Democrat Coalition have championed legislation⁶ to lower health care costs, stabilize the individual markets, and expand coverage. Significant strides have already been made through

¹[NDC First 100 Day Agenda \(117th Congress\)](#)

²[NDC Members Urge Committee Leadership to Strengthen the ACA' \(Letter, 116th Congress\)](#)

³[NDC Solutions Over Politics' \(115th Congress\)](#)

^{4,6}[Chart Book: Accomplishments of Affordable Care Act,' CBPP \(Mar 2019\)](#)

⁵[Repeal of ACA's Pre-Existing Condition Protections Could Affect Health Security of Over 100 Million People,' Avelere \(Oct 2018\)](#)

⁶[NDC Health Care Bill Endorsements \(116th Congress\)](#)

both your executive action and COVID-19 relief packages, including the American Rescue Plan, and we look forward to advancing these and other critical solutions as we build back better.

As you work to develop and advance the American Families Plan, we respectfully request that you work with us to include several NDC priorities to strengthen and expand on the ACA. These include:

- Stabilizing ACA marketplaces and reduce premiums with a national reinsurance program as proposed in the State Health Care Premium Reduction Act;
- Capping families' health costs with permanent expansions of the premium tax credit and other enhancements in the American Rescue Plan aimed at reducing deductibles and other out-of-pocket expenses
- Simplifying enrollment for an estimated 4 million people by encouraging states to auto-enroll uninsured individuals who qualify for \$0 premium health plans and for 5 million people who qualify for Medicaid or CHIP;
- Incentivizing states that have not expanded Medicaid to increase coverage to newly eligible individuals with a 100 percent federal match, building on the base rate increase for expansion states under the American Rescue Plan;
- Embracing and fostering existing value-based models which were permanently authorized under the ACA and have demonstrated the ability to simultaneously improve quality and reduce costs;
- Exploring other innovations, to increase choice and competition and close coverage gaps;
- Improving coverage and cost transparency for patient care, and streamlining the prior authorization process;
- Addressing provider shortages, especially in rural, economically distressed, and underrepresented minority communities, and embracing expanded telehealth and home care under the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan;
- Modernizing and expanding supplemental benefits and exploring innovative payment mechanisms aimed at eliminating the financial and health burdens that barriers such as poor transportation and internet access have on underserved, elderly, and rural populations and our health care system writ large;
- Expanding health care savings and spending vehicles for workers and families.

Together, we now have an opportunity to protect and expand the progress you and President Obama made to ensure more Americans can access affordable coverage and care. Our approach must be comprehensive, innovative, ambitious, and built for long-lasting success. We believe these priorities should be prioritized as part of the build back better agenda and ask that you work with the NDC and its Members to make universal access to quality, affordable health insurance coverage and care a reality.

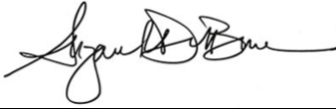
Sincerely,



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



Rep. Suzan DelBene
Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Scott Peters
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ami Bera
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Sharice Davids
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Ann McLane Kuster
Vice Chair
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Chrissy Houlahan
Whip
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Kathy Manning
Freshman Leadership Representative
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Bradley S. Schneider
Leadership Member
New Democrat Coalition



Rep. Derek Kilmer
Chair Emeritus
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Collin Allred
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Cindy Axne
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Donald S. Beyer
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Anthony Brown
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Julia Brownley
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Cheri Bustos
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Salud O. Carbajal
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. André Carson
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Ed Case
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Sean Casten
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Jim Cooper
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Jim Costa
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Angie Craig
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Charlie Crist
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Jason Crow
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Madeleine Dean
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Bill Foster
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress
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Rep. Ron Kind
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Rick Larsen
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Elaine G. Luria
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Tom Malinowski
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Lucy McBath
Member of Congress
New Democrat Coalition

Rep. Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress
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Rep. Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress
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Rep. Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress
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Rep. Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress
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Rep. Kathleen M. Rice
Member of Congress
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Rep. Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress
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Rep. Mikie Sherrill
Member of Congress
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Rep. Haley Stevens
Member of Congress
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Rep. Maryland Strickland
Member of Congress
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Rep. Thomas R. Suozzi
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Rep. Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress
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Rep. David Trone
Member of Congress
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Rep. Marc Veasey
Member of Congress
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Rep. Susan Wild
Member of Congress
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Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress
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