WASHINGTON, D.C. (July 28, 2023) – Today, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) released its first monthly data report about the unwinding of the Medicaid continuous coverage requirements put in place at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. 35 patient advocacy organizations released the following statement, urging the Biden administration to take immediate steps to protect patients’ Medicaid coverage:

“Our organizations appreciate the administration’s release of its first monthly Medicaid unwinding data report today. However, meaningful actions are urgently needed to address the unprecedented coverage losses we have seen over the past few months.

“Our organizations are extremely alarmed that nearly 3.8 million people have lost Medicaid coverage over the past few months, likely a significant underestimate given the limited data available. Equally concerning is that the vast majority of people have lost coverage because of administrative issues. Based on the data that the Kaiser Family Foundation has collected, 73% of all people disenrolled had their coverage terminated for procedural reasons. These failures in the administrative process suggest serious problems in many states with notices and renewal forms getting to enrollees, inadequate public education campaigns, insufficient consumer support for individuals trying to renew their coverage and other challenges.
“Greater transparency and additional enforcement actions are needed to protect our patients’ access to care in the Medicaid program. Specifically, our organizations call on the administration to:

- **Release monthly data reports more quickly.** States report information to CMS on the 8th of each month and CMS should release data no more than 30 days after that. The information released today is from April and therefore includes only 18 states. Many of our organizations have previously urged CMS to post data within 30 days so that timely action could be taken.

- **Release detailed information about enforcement actions.** While CMS released a fact sheet on its monitoring and oversight of states on July 18, stakeholders need to know which states have violated federal requirements and how those violations have been addressed to best support people navigating this process and hold states accountable.

- **Fully utilize the Secretary of Health and Human Services’ enforcement authority as passed by Congress in December.** The Secretary must require corrective action plans for states that do not meet federal requirements and suspend terminations for procedural reasons and impose civil monetary penalties if those actions plans are not submitted or implemented. While this process takes some time, that means it is even more important to start it as soon as possible.

“This administration has made significant progress in increasing access to quality and affordable healthcare coverage over the past three years and unless significant action is taken, the unwinding process will undermine that progress. We urge the administration to improve the transparency of this process and take immediate action to protect healthcare coverage for millions of Americans.”

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ALS Association  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Heart Association  
American Kidney Fund  
American Lung Association  
Arthritis Foundation  
Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America  
Cancer Support Community  
CancerCare  
Child Neurology Foundation  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Crohn’s & Colitis Foundation  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research  
Hemophilia Federation of America  
Immune Deficiency Foundation  
Lutheran Services in America  
Lupus Foundation of America  
March of Dimes  
Muscular Dystrophy Association  
National Alliance on Mental Illness  
National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship  
National Eczema Association  
National Health Council  
National Hemophilia Foundation  
National Kidney Foundation  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Psoriasis Foundation  
Pulmonary Hypertension Association  
Susan G. Komen  
The AIDS Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society