

The Honorable Frank Pallone Jr.
Chair, House Energy and Commerce
Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Ranking Member, House Energy and
Commerce Committee
2125 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6115

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chair, Senate Finance Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Mike Crapo
Ranking Member, Senate Finance
Committee
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair, Senate Health, Education, Labor and
Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member, Senate Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions Committee
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200

To the Honorable Chairs and Ranking Members:

The 60 undersigned advocacy organizations urgently ask for your support to enact HR 3013, the COVID Vaccine Transportation Access Act. This commonsense legislation clarifies that non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) is within the scope of the temporary increase to 100% in federal matching payments for administration of COVID-19 vaccines. This legislation would also authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for removing transportation barriers for individuals with disabilities from low-income, minority and other communities in which transportation poses a barrier to health care access.

Section 3101 of the American Rescue Plan Act increases the federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) to 100 percent for authorized COVID-19 vaccines “and the administration of such vaccine” but does not clarify the meaning of “administration” to include transportation to and from vaccine sites. As Congress and the administration recognize, there is a critical need for Medicaid beneficiaries to receive the vaccine on a wide scale to achieve herd immunity and mitigate the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on this population. The temporary FMAP increase can significantly help to achieve this shared goal if NEMT services are clearly included in the definition of administration of the vaccine to facilitate access to the vaccine and reduce potential transportation barriers.

We thank you in advance for giving this request your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,

AIDS Action Baltimore
AIDS Alabama

AIDS Alabama South
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Allies for Independence
American Academy of HIV Medicine
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Health and Disability
American Federation of County and Municipal Employees
American Kidney Fund
American Network of Community Options and Resources
American Public Transportation Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Amida Care
The Arc of the United States
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
California Dental Association
Center for Autism and Related Disorders
Center for Public Representation
Children's Health Fund
Community Catalyst
Community Transportation Association of America
Dialysis Patient Citizens
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Easterseals
Equality NC
Families USA
First Focus Campaign for Children
Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice
Greater WI Agency on Aging Resources, Inc. (GWAAR)
Justice in Aging
HIV Dental Alliance
HIV Medicine Association
Hudson Valley Community Services
Lakeshore Foundation
Los Angeles LGBT Center
Lutheran Services in America
Medicare Rights Center
Mental Health America
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Council on Aging
National Healthcare for the Homeless Council

Nevada Disability Coalition
Pennsylvania Council on Independent Living
Planned Parenthood of California
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
SKIL Resource Center
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Transportation Alliance
Treatment Action Group
Treatment Communities of America
United Spinal Association
WI Association of Mobility Managers (WAMM)
Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN)
Wyoming Patients Coalition

cc:

Rick Van Buren, Health Counsel
House Energy and Commerce Committee

Stephen Holland, Health Policy Counsel
House Energy and Commerce Committee

Kristen Shatynski, Professional Staff Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee

Elizabeth Dervan, Health Counsel
Senate Finance Committee

Stuart Portman, Senior Health Policy Advisor
Senate Finance Committee

Nick Bath, Health Policy Director
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee

Angela Wiles, Health Policy Director
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee