



July 16, 2020

Dear Senator Romney,

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to exacerbate health care gaps and health disparities in Utah and across the nation, as our neighbors – and our state budget – attempt to recover from the economic side of the crisis. One of the most effective ways to address health care needs, while stimulating our economy and protecting the state’s financial outlook, is to increase federal funding for Medicaid.

An additional 7.8% FMAP increase would bring an estimated \$320 million dollars in fiscal relief to Utah. An FMAP increase is an efficient funding mechanism for providing support directly to community needs. This policy would help protect vital health care services for those most vulnerable to the novel coronavirus and strengthen the state’s financial standing as public health crisis management and economic recovery efforts continue. This increased funding should last at least a year and be tied to unemployment rates rather than to the end of the public health emergency declaration.

An additional FMAP increase is supported by hundreds of nonpartisan organizations across the country including the National Governor’s Association, the National Association of Medicaid Directors, America’s Health Insurance Plans (AHIP).

Additionally, 16 Utah organizations have signed on to this letter in support of additional Medicaid funding. See below for the full list, and please reach out if you would like contact information to follow up with any of the signers.

We ask you to support these Medicaid provisions in the next COVID-19 response package, and we implore you to consider Utahns who are still struggling in the face of this crisis, and proceed with urgency.

Thank you,

Action Utah
 Catholic Diocese
 Crossroads Urban Center
 Coalition of Religious Communities
 Comunidades Unidas
 Disability Law Center
 Holy Cross Ministries
 Legislative Coalition for People with Disabilities

Take Care Utah
 Utahns Against Hunger
 Utah AIDS Foundation
 Utah Health and Human Rights
 Utah Health Policy Project
 Utah Nurses Association
 Voices for Utah Children
 YWCA