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February 5, 2020

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of our 3 million members and the 50 million students they serve, we urge you to VOTE YES on H. Res. 826 to oppose the Trump administration’s “Healthy Adult Opportunity” initiative. The name is misleading. The real goal is to turn federal support for Medicaid into block grants—an approach repeatedly rejected by Congress during the administration’s failed attempts to repeal the entire Affordable Care Act. Votes on this issue may be included in NEA’s Report Card for the 116th Congress.

After enactment of the Affordable Care Act, the number of uninsured Americans plunged. Now it is rising again—especially among children under age 6, and children in low- and moderate-income families. The number of children without health care coverage increased by more than 400,000 between 2016 and 2018, bringing the total number of uninsured children to over 4 million, according to the [Georgetown University Center for Children and Families](#).

Official guidance issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) on January 30, 2020, urges states to seek waivers that would further undermine the Affordable Care Act’s success in expanding health care coverage and access to care for adults and children alike. Instead of the federal government paying a percentage of actual Medicaid spending, each state would receive a set amount. To compensate for the loss of federal support, states are likely to shift money from education to health care as well as limit the number of Medicaid beneficiaries, reduce benefits, or both. As a result, even more children would go without essential health care. The push for block grants is a subterfuge—just another way to cut benefits and limit access.

For all these reasons, we urge you to VOTE YES on the resolution opposing the administration’s latest effort to deny millions of vulnerable children and families access to health care.

Sincerely,

Marc Egan
Director of Government Relations
National Education Association