



June 4, 2025

The Honorable Jon Thune  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders Thune and Schumer:

The House-passed FY25 budget reconciliation bill poses a grave threat to the lung health of millions of Americans: this bill will make people sicker while also taking away the healthcare they need. The devastating cuts included in this bill would terminate healthcare coverage for at least 16 million people while also worsening air quality for people across the country. For months, the American Lung Association has urged Congress to protect Medicaid and clean air investments through the reconciliation process. The House bill does the exact opposite, and that is why the American Lung Association strongly opposes this legislation and urges Members to remove these cuts as it considers the bill.

### **Healthcare Cuts**

The House bill contains at least \$800 billion in healthcare cuts by terminating Medicaid and Affordable Care Act (ACA) coverage for millions of people. These cuts mean that seniors with COPD, kids with asthma, people in treatment for lung cancer, and many other individuals with lung disease will lose lifesaving healthcare coverage.

This legislation decimates Medicaid expansion through work reporting requirements, mandatory copays, and other cuts that add red tape, take away coverage and increase healthcare costs. Medicaid expansion has helped millions of older adults, people with disabilities who don't receive Social Security Income (including people newly diagnosed with lung cancer) and caregivers of people with lung disease access quality, affordable healthcare coverage. All of these groups would be greatly harmed by the cuts in this bill.

Medicaid covers one in four people with lung cancer in the U.S. and Medicaid expansion is a critical part of cancer care: states that have expanded Medicaid access have seen an increase in early stage cancer diagnoses, including lung cancer, when cancer is more treatable.<sup>1</sup> The five-year survival rate for lung cancer patients is 64% when the cancer is caught before a tumor spreads, compared to just 9% if the cancer is caught at a late stage.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Aparna Soni, Kosali Simon, John Cawley, Lindsay Sabik, "Effect of Medicaid Expansions of 2014 on Overall and Early-Stage Cancer Diagnoses", American Journal of Public Health 108, no. 2 (February 1, 2018): pp. 216-218.

<sup>2</sup> American Lung Association, State of Lung Cancer 2024, Available at: <https://www.lung.org/research/state-of-lung-cancer/key-findings>.

Despite promises to protect vulnerable populations, the bill also includes a ten-year delay of the 2024 eligibility and enrollment rules. This will make it harder for older adults and people with disabilities to navigate the Medicaid enrollment process and allow states to reinstate waiting periods, coverage lockouts, and annual and lifetime dollar limits on services for kids in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). The bill also fails to extend the enhanced tax credits that help millions of Americans afford quality, affordable healthcare coverage through the marketplace. It prohibits auto-reenrollment and makes other changes that will add administrative burden to the enrollment process and make marketplace coverage more expensive.

Finally, these cuts will place an enormous burden on state budgets. Freezing provider taxes will make it harder for states to pay their share of Medicaid costs – forcing states to cut eligibility, reduce benefits and services, and make it harder for patients to access providers. Ultimately, these cuts will impact our entire healthcare system – clinics and rural hospitals will close and increased uncompensated care will lead to healthcare coverage costing more for everyone.

### **Clean Air Cuts**

The bill also cuts investments in reducing harmful air pollution. The American Lung Association strongly supported the clean air investments in the Inflation Reduction Act, particularly the programs to reduce air pollution in communities and the tax credits for clean energy, efficient appliances and clean transportation. These programs are improving air quality, improving health and improving consumer choice across the country.

The bill would dismantle or cut these programs, including ending projects to reduce air pollution in schools by providing schools with much-needed technical assistance; terminating tax credits that help people afford cleaner, less polluting vehicles, appliances and energy when they choose; and gutting protections against methane pollution. At the same time as these lifesaving programs are being cut, the bill would also implement a pay to play process that would fast-track more fossil fuel energy and cut community members out of the process of determining what happens in their own neighborhoods.

The American Lung Association urges you to oppose the House-passed budget resolution bill and protect lung health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harold Wimmer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Harold P. Wimmer  
President and CEO