



December 8, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer

Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell

Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader McConnell, and honorable members of the U.S Senate:

We are writing to you from the American Medical Student Association (AMSA), a student-run organization which has advocated for improved health care policies for over 70 years. We represent over 20,000 medical and premedical students who are committing their lives to the patients and communities they will serve across the United States.

Today, we write to ask for your strong support for swift Senate passage of the Build Back Better Act, as passed by the House of Representatives. This landmark legislation will improve the lives of millions of Americans and make important investments necessary to move our nation toward a more equitable, affordable, and sustainable healthcare system; it deserves a full Senate vote before year end.

As future physicians who are dedicating our careers to caring for people regardless of where they live, how much they make, or who they vote for, our first priority is the health and wellbeing of our patients. We see the pain and suffering of patients every day. We see what happens when they can't afford recommended treatments and medications causing conditions to worsen. We also see what happens to families and communities when loved ones who can't access or afford needed care die.

And, we know, all too often the pain and suffering we see patients and families go through is due to policy choices you make right here in Congress. With your vote in the Senate for The Build Back Better Act you have a chance to right many wrongs and dramatically improve the lives and health of millions of Americans.

Your YES vote on The Build Back Better Act will:

- Close the Medicaid coverage gap providing millions with access to affordable care
- Lower Rx prices for millions by requiring Rx companies to negotiate with Medicare on certain drugs, beginning with \$35/month insulin, capping out-of-pocket spending, and stopping Rx companies from raising prices faster than inflation
- Expand home care for seniors and people with disabilities, improve worker pay, and add hearing services in Medicare
- Ensure all kids get health coverage without gaps by making the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) permanent
- Reduce health insurance premiums for people who buy insurance on their own or through the ACA Marketplace
- Provide 4 weeks paid family and medical leave, and make critical investments to improve maternal health, target racial health disparities, and advance birth equity

Passing the Build Back Better Act will help more of our patients live healthier lives, make our communities healthier places to live, and make our lives and work as physicians caring for your constituents better and easier. We urge you to invest in the health of our people and nation by keeping the vital components in the House package intact, and quickly moving it to President Biden's desk where he can sign it into law by the end of this year.

Respectfully yours,



Hannah M. Hendrix
National President, American Medical Student Association

About the American Medical Student Association:

AMSA is the oldest and largest independent association of physicians-in-training in the United States. Founded in 1950, AMSA is a student-governed, non-profit organization committed to representing physicians-in-training, advocating for quality and affordable health care for all, and building the next generation of physician leaders. To join our community, visit [amsa.org](https://www.amsa.org).