



**West Virginians**  
FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE

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**Statement by Dr. Jessica Ice, Executive Director  
West Virginians for Affordable Health Care (WVAHC)  
On the Release of the American Families Plan by President Biden on April 28, 2021**

**WVAHC Applauds the Expansion of Affordable Health Coverage by Enhancing Premium Tax Credits.**

As West Virginia looks forward to recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic's impact on West Virginia families and our state economy, we must have—and appreciate—the help of the federal government to invest in a bright future for our families. West Virginia families desperately need the necessary supports to stay healthy, work, and take good care of our children.

Every West Virginian must be able to seek health care without fear of financial ruin. To do that, we need to create sustainable sources of revenue that are fair so that our vision is achievable.

President Biden's American Families Plan released today includes a number of critical family and economic investment recommendations to Congress. West Virginians for Affordable Health Care supports the package and calls on our Congressional Delegation to stand up for the expansion of affordable health coverage.

*The American Families Plan permanently extends the temporary improvements in the Affordable Care Act (ACA) premium tax credits included in the American Rescue Plan. This is critically important for West Virginia. In our state, these improvements made 16,900 more West Virginians newly eligible for help with the cost of health insurance through the premium tax credit. Almost 4,000 uninsured West Virginians became eligible for free health insurance coverage. We do not want to say "sorry not anymore" to these West Virginians who struggle with access to health care.*

The American Rescue Plan's premium tax credit enhancements and expansions make coverage more accessible and affordable for hard-working West Virginia families without affordable health insurance through their employer. No West Virginian should have to continue to "play by the rules" and work hard only to find that they and their family could be financially devastated by one serious illness. Or worse face avoidable health risks that can lead to death.

There is no excuse to say that we cannot afford to make these changes. In fact, our nation cannot afford to leave behind the health and economic security of the workers and their families that form the backbone of our country. Only a few years ago Congress passed huge corporate tax cuts that provided little benefit to low- and middle-income families: corporate taxes were at 35 percent until President Trump and Congress cut that rate to 21 percent in recent years. We have immediately available options to raise revenue in an equitable way. We can address inequalities in taxation to meet the health care needs of all Americans.

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