



President Donald Trump
Vice President Mike Pence

Alex Azar, Secretary of Health & Human Services

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Senate

April 7, 2020

The National Breast Cancer Coalition is a grassroots organization dedicated to action and advocacy. We are a coalition of many diverse groups around the country, focused on our mission to end breast cancer. Since our inception in 1991, we have been fighting for access to high quality, evidence-based healthcare for all individuals.

Now more than ever, individuals must have access to affordable health care for all their medical needs. We look to you for leadership in making this happen. Covering all individuals is good public health policy, especially during this unprecedented public health crisis. Uninsured people are less likely to seek care when ill, and thus more likely to inadvertently spread the coronavirus. The uninsured are more likely to rely on the emergency room and can overburden ERs during this critical pandemic, increasing the risk of exposure for uninfected patients waiting to receive care. Moreover, a lack of insurance will leave many individuals unable to pay for medical treatment, leading to more medical bankruptcies and financial strain. This is especially true today, as more and more workers are becoming unemployed and losing their health insurance.

We ask that you, as this country's leaders:

- o Open enrollment on Healthcare.gov and allow individuals to sign up for health insurance on the Affordable Care Act exchange through a special enrollment period.
- o Provide COBRA-related financial assistance to workers who are laid off, furloughed, or have reduced hours so that they can maintain their job-based coverage through COBRA.
- o Provide incentives for states to expand Medicaid by increasing the federal share of the cost, and all other appropriate incentives.

As this public health emergency continues unabated, everyone must have access to the healthcare they need. NBCC stands ready to work with you on this significant public health priority.

Sincerely,
National Breast Cancer Coalition

After Breast Cancer Diagnosis (WI)
Alamo Breast Cancer Foundation (TX)
Annie Appleseed Project (FL)
Breast Cancer Care & Research Fund (CA)
CARE Advocates Network (MA)
Cedar Valley Committee: Beyond Pink Team (IA)
Cedars Sinai Breast Center (CA)
Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition
Dr. Susan Love Research Foundation (CA)
Florida Breast Cancer Foundation
Linda Creed Breast Cancer Organization (PA)
Maine Breast Cancer Coalition
Metropolitan Washington, DC Chapter of NBCC
Michigan Breast Cancer Coalition
Minnesota Breast Cancer Coalition
Nueva Vida (VA)
Pink Aroostook (ME)
SHARE Cancer Support (NY)
St. Louis Breast Cancer Coalition (MO)
Think Beyond Pink (ME)
Virginia Breast Cancer Foundation
Young Survival Coalition (NY)