

SAMPLE LETTER:

South Carolina Needs ACA Medicaid Expansion

Dear Governor/Senator/Representative _____;

I urge you to expand Medicaid eligibility to all South Carolina residents with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level as allowed under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). As someone who cares about the health of the people of South Carolina, I am certain that you understand that Medicaid would be a lifeline to the more than 300,000 who would gain health insurance under the proposal.

For low income uninsured people in our state Medicaid can provide a way out of the cycle of illness and poverty. Critical improvements are needed in the areas of infant mortality, obesity, diabetes and stroke prevention. Without health coverage people living with physical or mental illness often delay treatment until a condition reaches a crisis leading to costly interventional care. Due to a lack of insurance, many avoid preventive care or early treatments until they can no longer function effectively, creating a further drain on the economy.

If we expand Medicaid, the federal government will fund the program 100 percent the first three years and at the most would cost South Carolina \$1 for every \$9 the federal government provides. That equals \$11.2 billion that the state will throw away between 2014 and 2020 instead of using it to insure the poor if Medicaid Expansion does not pass.

Medicaid Expansion will not only save lives, it will also add to the economic health of our state by drawing in new federal dollars and creating health sector jobs in our local communities. It also protects thousands of existing healthcare jobs that might be jeopardized without Medicaid Expansion. One important but not very well understood fact is that funding for the ACA will come from significant cuts in payments to hospitals from two federal sources: Medicare and Disproportionate Share reductions. This reduction was intended to be offset by the expansion of coverage for citizens who are currently uninsured. Those cuts will be implemented regardless of whether we expand Medicaid eligibility in South Carolina and could prove especially devastating to rural hospitals.

Only you can help break the pattern that positions South Carolina as one of the unfortunate leaders in the nation for the worst general health. Please consider making the right decision for our state. Medicaid Expansion will give people the opportunity to restore their lives and will strengthen our economy.

Sincerely,

[Your signature]

[Your name and address printed]

SAMPLE EMAIL SCRIPT:

Dear Governor/Senator/Representative _____;

I urge you to expand Medicaid eligibility to all South Carolina residents with incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level as allowed under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). As someone who cares about the health of the people of South Carolina, I am certain that you understand that Medicaid would be a lifeline to the more than 300,000 who would gain health insurance under the proposal.

If we expand Medicaid, the federal government will fund the program 100 percent the first three years and at the most would cost South Carolina \$1 for every \$9 the federal government provides. That equals \$11.2 billion that the state will throw away between 2014 and 2020 instead of using it to insure the poor if Medicaid Expansion is not approved.

Only you can help break the pattern that positions South Carolina as the one of the unfortunate leaders in the nation for the worst overall general health. Please consider making the right decision for our state. Medicaid Expansion will give people the opportunity to restore their lives and will strengthen our economy.

Sincerely,

[Your name and address printed]

SAMPLE TELEPHONE CALL SCRIPT:

“Hello. I’m calling to urge Representative (insert rep’s name) to approve Medicaid Expansion in the South Carolina. If we choose not to extend Medicaid, South Carolina taxpayers will lose \$11 billion of our state’s federal tax dollars to improve the health of our citizens and to strengthen our economy. We can’t afford NOT to expand Medicaid in the state of South Carolina. Thank you for your time.”