

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 13, 2024

The Honorable Brian Kemp
Governor of Georgia
206 Washington Street
111 State Capitol
Atlanta, GA 30334
United States

Dear Governor Kemp,

We write to express our grave concerns that approximately 149,080¹² Georgian children lost health coverage from March 2023 to September 2023 and that hundreds of thousands of Georgians disenrolled from Medicaid by the State, including these children, have been unable to reenroll due to the State's mismanagement of Medicaid redetermination. This letter requests detailed information regarding the State's plan to immediately improve its performance and ensure Georgia children can access health coverage.

Only two states in the country have disenrolled more children during the Medicaid redetermination process than Georgia.³ This catastrophic outcome results from the State's decision to disenroll entire Georgia households from Medicaid, in violation of Federal requirements that children and other eligible Georgians be auto-enrolled at the individual level.⁴ In August 2023, Georgia reported that the State had failed to follow Federal requirements and "household members with different eligibility statuses" were affected.⁵

Further, the State's Department of Human Services is now failing to efficiently process reenrollment cases, leaving a huge number of Georgians without health coverage for an extended period. Many of those who are now disenrolled from Medicaid are therefore losing critical access to health care services not because they have been deemed ineligible, but because of failures by the State to competently process their claims.⁶

¹ See Medicaid and CHIP enrollment: Child and Youth Data snapshot showing declines in child enrollment from March 2023 to September 2023 issued by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid services. The Performance Indicator (PI) data uses the definition of "child" as included in the state's Medicaid state plan. The age limit for a "child" in Georgia is 19 years old. Available at [chrome-https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/medicaid-unwinding-child-data-snapshot.pdf](https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/medicaid-unwinding-child-data-snapshot.pdf) see page 10.

² Letter from HHS to Governor Kemp sent December 2023. Available at <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/sec-becerras-letter-to-ga-governor.pdf>

³ Data represents absolute change in child enrollment by state, from March 2023 to September 2023, based on Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility and Enrollment PI Data. Preliminary data submitted November 2023, with data through September 2023. Available at <https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-12/medicaid-unwinding-child-data-snapshot.pdf>

⁴ See Preliminary Overview of State Assessments Regarding Compliance with Medicaid and CHIP Automatic Renewal Requirements at the individual level published by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Published September 21, 2023. Available at https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/state-asesment-compliance-auto-ren-req_0.pdf see page 3.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ National Summary Objectives of Medicaid and CHIP Unwinding Related Renewals from March 2023 – September 2023. See proc terminations tab available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicaid.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023->

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution (AJC) recently reported that mismanagement, understaffing, and poor administrative execution are driving the failure to re-enroll Georgians in health coverage:

“Voicemails are always full. When they try to go to an office in person they often find the caseworkers are actually working remotely. They send paperwork and the state can’t find it. And some problems lie with the Gateway computer system, which gives contradictory or inaccurate information, depending on which type of device and screen a person is using.”⁷

The State’s failure to auto-renew children at the individual level⁸, as required by the federal government⁹ and to competently execute the Medicaid redetermination process leaves Georgians who have lost coverage at risk.¹⁰ The State of Georgia has a responsibility to manage programs correctly to serve the people of Georgia and is currently failing to do so. Your administration must take immediate corrective action.

The safety and well-being of children must be one of our highest concerns. It is unacceptable that children and other vulnerable Georgians have lost access to comprehensive health care through no fault of their own.

Therefore, we ask that you please provide answers to the following questions by April 11th, 2024:

1. What steps is the State taking to ensure that the Department of Human Services can quickly and efficiently work through Medicaid redeterminations?
2. How does the State plan to address problems with the Gateway computer system?¹¹
3. How is the State addressing vital health care needs for children while Department of Human Services is redetermining their eligibility for Medicaid?
4. The State has chosen to not to report the number of children disenrolled from Medicaid who still lack coverage. How many children are still left to redetermine?¹²

[12%2Fseptember-2023-national-summary-renewal-outcomes.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK](#)

⁷ See Atlanta Journal Constitution article published Jan. 22, 2024 at <https://www.ajc.com/news/health-news/number-of-georgians-dropped-from-medicaid-nears-500000/VAQYLWFWCFBA7JMGOJX6T62T6U/>

⁸ National Summary Objectives of Medicaid and CHIP Unwinding Related Renewals from March 2023 – September 2023. See ex parte tab available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicaid.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-12%2Fseptember-2023-national-summary-renewal-outcomes.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

⁹ See Preliminary Overview of State Assessments Regarding Compliance with Medicaid and CHIP Automatic Renewal Requirements at the individual level published by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Published September 21, 2023. See ex parte renewals information available at https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/state-asesment-compliance-auto-ren-req_0.pdf

¹⁰ National Summary Objectives of Medicaid and CHIP Unwinding Related Renewals from March 2023 – September 2023. See pro terminations tab available at <https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.medicaid.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2F2023-12%2Fseptember-2023-national-summary-renewal-outcomes.xlsx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK>

¹¹ See Atlanta Journal Constitution article published January 22, 2024 available at <https://www.ajc.com/news/health-news/number-of-georgians-dropped-from-medicaid-nears-500000/VAQYLWFWCFBA7JMGOJX6T62T6U/>


¹² See Preliminary Overview of State Assessments Regarding Compliance with Medicaid and CHIP Automatic Renewal Requirements at the individual level published by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. Published September 21, 2023. See renewals information available at https://www.medicaid.gov/sites/default/files/2023-09/state-asesment-compliance-auto-ren-req_0.pdf

5. Given the AJC's reporting about mismanagement, understaffing, and poor administrative execution, what is the State doing to reach Georgia families whose children lost their insurance and ensure they understand their eligibility status and next steps to get their children reenrolled?

Sincerely,



Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress