



DATE: July 13, 2017

Dear Members of Congress,

On behalf of HEAL Trafficking, a network of over 1000 professionals combatting trafficking from a public health lens, we are writing to express how integral Medicaid is to the care of trafficking victims.

Medicaid is life-saving for victims of trafficking. Trafficking victims need medical care to treat ailments including opioid addiction, PTSD, HIV and other STDs, malnutrition, broken bones, pregnancy, untreated chronic disease, psychiatric illness, and disability from injuries. Medicaid pays for treatment for all of these conditions, all of which greatly impact health and quality of life. Without the services Medicaid provides, many victims will be unable to heal from their trauma and live healthy and productive lives.

Below, we have included the voices of trafficking victims and their healthcare providers.

We as HEAL Trafficking oppose the BRCA, the AHCA, or any attempt to rollback or curtail the Affordable Care Act. Cutting Medicaid hurts human trafficking victims, plain and simple.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hanni Stoklosa".

Hanni Stoklosa, MD, MPH
Executive Director,
HEAL Trafficking, Inc.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susie Baldwin".

Susie Baldwin, MD, MPH, FACPM
President of the Board of Directors,
HEAL Trafficking, Inc.



“Medicaid is life-saving for victims and survivors of human trafficking. Without the services Medicaid provides, many victims will be unable to heal from their trauma and live healthy and productive lives.”

Susie Baldwin, California Physicians Alliance

"Medicaid has been integral to my ability to provide the standard of care to women who have survived human trafficking. As many as 70% of the human trafficking survivors I have seen rely on Medicaid to take back control of their bodies and their health. A recent trafficking survivor I cared for was able to have a surgeon fix the broken nose she sustained from her pimp because she had Medicaid. Another young woman found out she had an STD and was able to treat it before it impacted her fertility. A third woman was able to get a pap smear for the first time in 8 years and found out that she had uncontrolled high blood pressure. As a result of Medicaid, she was able to start medications quickly and change her long-term risk of stroke, heart attack and death."

Julia Geynisman-Tan, MD. Founder of the ERASE Trafficking Clinic, Chicago and Survivor Clinic, NYC

"Medicaid is everything a victim has to survive any illness or emergency. "

“Most of the survivors present HPV, *all* have mental or physiological issues that need to be treated.

All of them have been raped, abused, beaten, malnourished, isolated, and so on...

“I had a 9 year old girl who was raped, and sexually abuse several times a day, everyday!!! So, having a proper medical, psychological treatment is a must for a survivor of human trafficking.”

Debbie Marulanda, Human Trafficking Service Provider

“Many of our sex trafficked children are on Medicaid. They have a variety of medical and behavioral health needs that extend beyond what is covered by crime victims compensation. To



help them heal from their severe, prolonged trauma they need access to healthcare. Investment now can help prevent long term costs, including HIV treatment, teen pregnancy, rehabilitation for drug addiction, psychiatric treatment, disability from injuries and untreated chronic disease, as well as costs associated with the criminal justice system.”

Jordan Greenbaum Stephanie V. Blank Center for Safe and Healthy Children
Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

“The trafficking victims I care for rely on Medicaid for survival.”

Hanni Stoklosa, Emergency Physician, Harvard Medical School, Brigham and Women’s Hospital

I have survived international human trafficking, domestic violence, and related adversity. Today I am a nationally known health and wellness speaker, award-winning author, and certified addiction treatment specialist. I thank Medicaid and ER staff for literally saving my life by treating my physical injuries and issues during the years following my escape. For years after being trafficked, I suffered from extreme post-traumatic stress. Through Medicaid, I was able to engage with a trauma therapist, a process that not only saved my life, but inspired me to dedicate the remainder of my years to advocating for vulnerable populations and to supporting those who provide services to those populations.

Marti MacGibbon, CADC-II, ACRPS

Survivor Leader and Advocate, Speaker, Nationally Award-winning Author, Certified Addiction Specialist

"Medicaid is essential to accessing healthcare for survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (CSE) and their children. CSE survivors most often exit systems of exploitation with a vast range of complex medical, mental health and dental needs. Attending to these basic needs is a pillar to healing that every survivor must have access to in order to rebuild their lives." ~**Autumn Burris, Founding Director, Survivors for Solutions**

We recently worked with a trafficking survivor who was pregnant. Without Medicaid, she would not have received the high-risk obstetric care she required nor would she have received trauma



counseling. Due to the medical and mental health services she received, both mother and baby are now safe and thriving.

Dr. Nicole Littenberg

Pacific Survivor Center

We know that there is a high correlation of child trafficking and child welfare / juvenile justice placement. Youth in care receive Medicaid, every trafficking survivor in the child welfare or juvenile justice system(s) would potentially be impacted by changes to Medicaid.

-anonymous child welfare agency worker

"WestCoast Children's Clinic provides outpatient mental health services to more than 120 child sex trafficking victims annually, all of whom have coverage through Medicaid. Without Medicaid, we would be unable to provide critical outpatient mental health services to address the severe and chronic trauma experienced by exploited youth. Our staff are often the only reliable adult in a child's life, and severing the relationship with the clinician would cause additional harm."

Jodie Langs, Director of Policy, WestCoast Children's Clinic

Working with Medicaid has been a crucial piece of the care we are able to provide to both victims and survivors of human trafficking. Enrolling these patients is one of the elements we work to accomplish during each intake (our clinic averages 3-5 new trafficking victims each week, and many, many more in continuity care). To aid in enrollment we reached out to representatives from Covered California and managed care medical (CA Medicaid) discussing the needs of this unique patient population. They were incredibly receptive and sent selected case workers to our in-person human trafficking training where they additionally learned elements of victim-centered trauma-informed care. These representatives partnered with our clinic to help our patients navigate the system and get them into Medicaid plans quickly and with relative ease. Our patients (and often their children) benefit from receiving needed medications, lab work, imaging, immunizations, prenatal care and preventative medicine services covered by Medicaid. Without Medicaid the vast majority of these patients would end up in the emergency room later on with more advanced pathology and increased morbidity. This would end up costing the health care system far more monetarily and lead to far fewer human trafficking victims and survivors who are able to start down a new path and successfully undergo a process of recovery.



Ron Chambers, MD, FAAFP

Program Director, DIO, Family Medicine Residency Program

Chair, Family Medicine Department

Medical Director, Mercy Family Health Center and Mercy Human Trafficking Clinic

Physician Advisor, Human Trafficking Response

Chief, South Sacramento Hill Physicians

“Our trafficking survivors seen in our THRIVE Clinic rely on Medicaid to access vital healthcare. With hardly any other funding sources available, if Medicaid went away many of our patients would not be able to see a primary doctor, specialist, or even get prescriptions. It’s a scary thought because for some of our survivors, it can mean the difference between life and death.”

Grechen Mills, BS

University of Miami- THRIVE Clinic

Sr. Case Worker