H.R. 796   
Coverage for COVID-19 treatment Act of 2021

**This bill is in the first stage of the legislative process. It was introduced into Congress on Feb 4, 2021, by Ms. Blunt Rochester to advocate for coverage for COVID-19 related treatments at no cost to the patient**

# Introduction

Provides individual health insurance coverage to provide coverage without cost to the patient during the COVID-19 emergency period

Promotes the need for the funds to provide coverage without any cost-sharing requirements for COVID-19 related treatments to the patient

Requires private health insurance plans to cover, without any cost-sharing requirement medically necessary services for individuals who have been diagnosed with COVID-19

# background

The Covid-19 pandemic has brought the need for health care reforms that promote universal access to affordable care (King, 2020).

The loss of jobs and income from the pandemic will greatly exacerbate all Americans' existing healthcare cost challenges. Even with insurance coverage, the out-of-pocket costs they might pay would affect their decision to seek early care if they have symptoms of COVID-19 (King, 2020).

Failure to receive testing and treatment because of cost harms everyone by prolonging the pandemic, increasing its morbidity and mortality, and exacerbating its economic impact (Blumenthal et al.,2020).

# Evidence

The cumulative job losses amounted to 23 million as of May 2020 (*Tracking covid-19 unemployment and job losses*, 2021).

According to an article in the New England Journal of Medicine, over half of Americans receive health insurance through their job (King, 2020). With the loss of jobs from COVID, this has left millions now without access to affordable health care.

An analysis of Global health spending showed that only roughly 1% of Global ODA was geared towards pandemic preparedness (Madhav, 2017).

# recommendations

Advocate for increased federal funding to help cover insured and eliminate all copayments and deductibles associated with COVID-19 treatments.

Pass the bill and support that the federal government needs to support American's by facilitating access to Medicaid benefits by raising eligibility thresholds, excluding asset tests, and easing short-form applications.

Persuade that the program will match the government funds to help cover people who lost their jobs or remain uninsured during the pandemic.

**References:**

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