

**United States Senate**  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Donald Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

I write regarding your administration's actions on health care that are raising costs and reducing access for families across Arizona and the country. In the wealthiest country in the world, parents should be able to take their kids to the doctor and seniors should be able to pay for their prescription drugs. But your administration has made our broken health care system worse.

You promised to lower costs for working families. Instead, your actions have increased out-of-pocket costs, weakened coverage, and exacerbated widespread staff shortages. While many healthcare professionals continue to serve tirelessly, they are strained by an overwhelmed system, particularly in rural and underserved areas. That makes it harder and more expensive to get care in those places at a time when families can least afford it.

Insurance costs also continue to rise beyond the reach of many Arizonans. High premiums, high deductibles, and limited coverage options leave families exposed to crushing out-of-pocket costs. While the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has helped insure more people and made coverage more affordable for working families, there is still a lot more work to do. In Arizona, hundreds of thousands of people rely on ACA marketplace plans to access coverage they could not otherwise afford. The expiration of enhanced ACA tax credits will only further increase costs and make coverage less accessible. Many Arizonans will be priced out of coverage altogether, while others will be forced to pay higher deductibles and copays. When people delay or skip care because of cost, people get sicker and long-term expenses increase for everyone. Despite that, you have allowed the ACA tax credits to expire for millions of Americans, causing their health care costs to skyrocket.

Nearly two million Arizonans rely on Medicaid for health coverage—including more than 750,000 children, over 72,000 seniors and people with long-term care needs, and hundreds of thousands of low-income adults. In some rural and tribal counties, nearly half of all residents are enrolled in Medicaid. Despite this, your administration made some of the largest cuts to Medicaid in U.S. history. This will ultimately lead to more Arizonans having to rely on expensive emergency room care, as fewer providers become willing or able to serve Medicaid patients. That costs everyone more in the long run for a worse outcome.

Rural hospitals and community health centers, which depend heavily on Medicaid funding, are especially vulnerable to these disruptions. Hospital closures in rural communities have resulted in dangerous gaps in emergency and specialized services, increased travel times, reduced access to care, and ultimately higher costs for families. Several Arizona hospitals have publicly raised concerns about the financial strain of health care cuts, including those at Little Colorado Medical

Center (Winslow), Carondelet Holy Cross Hospital (Nogales), Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center (Globe). Independent analyses also identify several other rural facilities as vulnerable under these changes. The loss of these hospitals would not only increase health care costs but also eliminate some of the largest sources of jobs and investment in rural communities. It would also weaken local supply chains and limit the economic opportunities that help keep families and businesses in these areas. We should be giving rural hospitals the tools and workforce they need to keep delivering care to our communities, not taking them away.

The costs of routine procedures and medications have become unsustainable. The lack of pricing transparency is contributing to these inflated costs, leaving many patients unable to afford necessary treatments. Experts warn that recently proposed tariffs on pharmaceuticals and other policies related to drug manufacturing will continue to drive up drug costs and exacerbate shortages of generic drugs. Additionally, your administration's changes to drug purchasing and pricing rules have failed to meaningfully lower costs for patients while creating uncertainty for providers and suppliers. Instead of delivering relief at the pharmacy counter, these policies risk shifting costs onto patients. Your administration should work with us to lower prescription drug costs, instead of pursuing policies that raise drug prices and destabilize supply chains.

These issues reflect a systemic failure that requires a comprehensive and immediate response from leadership at all levels. I respectfully urge the Administration to take proactive steps to:

- Advance legislative and regulatory actions to lower insurance premiums, including extending enhanced ACA premium tax credits.
- Increase funding and provider incentives for Medicaid expansion and participation to reduce uncompensated care, stabilize hospitals, and prevent cost shifting onto insured patients.
- Provide targeted financial support to prevent hospital closures, especially in underserved areas where closures increase healthcare costs and eliminate critical jobs and economic opportunities.
- Lower prescription drug costs, protect access to affordable generics, and ensure that trade policies do not increase healthcare costs for patients and providers.
- Address medical workforce shortages through education, loan forgiveness programs, and better working conditions to prevent service reductions that raise prices.
- Increase transparency and accountability in healthcare pricing and service delivery.

Improving the affordability and availability of healthcare is not just a political issue—it is a moral imperative. Getting this done is critical to ensuring that every American, regardless of income or geography, can get and afford the care they need. Thank you for your attention to this matter,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Kelly". The signature is fluid and cursive, with "Mark" on the left and "Kelly" on the right, connected by a horizontal line.

CC: The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary of Health and Human Services