

HEALTH CARE REVIEW



West Virginians
FOR AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE



MORE GREAT STORIES INSIDE:

Director's Note
Meet India

LISA'S RETIREMENT



It is with both delight and disappointment that we are announcing longtime advocate for West Virginians, **Lisa Diehl**, has retired from West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. Lisa's passion for health care policy led her to begin work with WVAHC in 2010 after working with West Virginia Citizen Action working towards the eventual passage of the Affordable Care Act. Lisa's work for the community extended beyond health care. She serves on the board of the Good News Mountaineer Garage. With a background in labor—Lisa was also a union carpenter, representing women in the field and even traveling to Russia to meet and learn with other women working in labor at a time when women were rare in the field. Based on what she learned and the issue around low representation of women in skilled trade related careers, in 2000 Lisa was a co-founder and board member of West Virginia Women Work—advocating for a living wage for women and helping over 1,000 West Virginia women. Lisa's retirement is our loss. She was a joy to work and learn from but we are excited for her. (Don't worry, we have the feeling that this isn't the last we will see of Lisa Diehl.) Congratulations on your retirement, Lisa!

KID'S HEALTH

ADDRESSING OUR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND PROVIDER SHORTAGE

We started discussing what we could do, as an organization, to help meet the mental health needs of West Virginia's children during the summer. Several parents had contacted us about a lack of mental health providers covered by their insurance, or providers that accepted Medicaid were scarce, there were not enough beds in emergency facilities near the therapist their child trusted, there weren't enough providers that accepted children and so on. Parents were not solely impacted by the lack of access to local mental health providers. Teachers have been stressing the need for youth mental health supports in the schools. In a state where a majority of students have been affected by the opioid and foster care crisis, increased services and additional funding in these areas are a must.

This is not an issue that is exclusive to West Virginia. According to the CDC, there has been a 60% increase in youth suicide rates in the past ten years. A global pandemic and social isolation has only contributed to decline in the mental health of our youth. A national survey was done by America's Promise Alliance in 2020, amongst high school students. They found that almost a third of the students polled were suffering from depression and feelings of unhappiness since the start of the pandemic. Our lack of mental health care providers is already quite dire, with the National Center for Health Workforce Analysis projecting "that by 2025 there will be a 45,000 and 250,000 shortage in mental health professionals". It is enough of a concern that the American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and the Children's Hospital Association released a [joint statement](#), declaring a National Emergency in Child and Adolescent Mental Health.

How do we start addressing this locally? We started by inviting those individuals, who are desperately working to meet the needs of our kids, to a Kids' Health Conference. The Conference was focused on Child and Youth Mental Health needs and solutions. Each expert was asked to share the mental health needs of the children they work with or for, and what they felt were some of the best solutions.



If you missed the conference and some of these amazing individuals, I encourage you to view the recordings and join the conversation going forward. Some questions to keep in mind while viewing: How can we keep providers in the state? How can individuals be encouraged to go into this field? In a state with so many families on Medicaid, how can we incentivize mental health providers to accept Medicaid? How do we provide access to mental health providers in rural areas? How do we provide easier access to mental health services in schools?

We welcome anyone working to improve the lives of West Virginia's children to join the conversation.

[Project AWARE: Supporting and Understanding the Mental Health Needs of WV Students](#)

[The Impact of Racial Inequality on Black and Brown Students in WV](#)

[Addressing the Opioid Epidemic and the Needs of the Children Impacted](#)

[The Impact of Domestic Violence on Youth Mental Health](#)

[WV Foster Care and the Needs of Foster Children](#)

[Mental Health in the WV School System](#)

We will have a series of surveys going out, based on the information and suggestions these experts provided, to help narrow down what actions we can take. There will be a conversation with school staff only on January 4th at 6:30pm. If you are a teacher or school employee and would like to join that conversation, please email julianne@wvahc.org.

There will be a **WV Kids' Health Partnership Meeting** on **January 6th** to discuss all findings, input, and action steps. All are welcome and encouraged to join the Partnership meeting. You can register [here](#). If you have thoughts and input after viewing the conference sessions, or if you would like to discuss youth mental health in our state, please reach out to our **Director of Child Health**.



CLOSING IN ON THE FINISH LINE: BUILD BACK BETTER



2021 has been a long, hard marathon for WVAHC and our allies advocating for the passage of two legislative packages that make historic investments in West Virginia families and communities. We can celebrate the passage of the hard infrastructure package – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The second package of critical health care and social supports – the Build Back Better – is very close to becoming law. The House passed Build Back Better the week before Thanksgiving, and now advocates across the nation have their eye on one Senator, our own Senator Joe Manchin, as THE key to pushing Build Back Better across the finish line in December.

The IIJA includes the largest investment in clean drinking water in our nation’s history, funding to protect homes and communities from climate disasters and pollution, and funding for better broadband access, especially for rural communities. WVAHC thanks Representative McKinley for joining Senators Manchin and Capito to support the IIJA.

The IIJA will help us build healthier communities. Looking forward, the Build Back Better Act will dovetail with the IIJA to strengthen the foundation for a healthier, more prosperous West Virginia. See this OpEd explaining how the two packages work together to help lift up West Virginia families and communities.

Build Back Better includes authority for the federal government to negotiate lower prescription drug prices and control rising drug costs, a four-year extension of lower health insurance premiums on healthcare.gov, new funding for home care for disabled and elderly West Virginians, a new Medicare hearing benefit, a one-year extension of the expanded Child Tax Credit, new funding to help families defray the cost of childcare, and new housing and food assistance for low-income families. The House passed package also included a 4-week paid leave guarantee for workers but Senator Manchin has requested that paid leave be dropped from the Senate version.

Highlights of WVAHC’s advocacy work on the Build Back Better include meetings with Senator Manchin and with his staff members, generating over 1200 calls to Senator Manchin’s office, and placing over 30 opeds in statewide papers. We published new data about the number of new jobs in West Virginia that would be created by Build Back Better and spoke at numerous virtual meetings with allies over the summer and fall. We developed a series of WV-specific Build Back Better facts sheets to share with media, advocates, and organizational allies. WVAHC kept up Build Back Better outreach to our grassroots network through social media email action alerts including 10 Phone Action Alerts, 127 Facebook posts, and 25 original tweets (not counting re-tweets). In addition, our Health Care for All Coalition promoted Build Back Better on Facebook and twitter and at our statewide HC4A Summit.

THE HEALTH AGENDA

Our Health Care for All coalition is working on educating the public and state legislators about our [2022 West Virginia Health Agenda](#). The Agenda outlines the coalition’s shared policy vision and then enumerates 16 specific legislative goals that will advance our vision. The Agenda is a consensus draft among coalition organizations that is then shared for several months with our grassroots network for feedback. The grassroots process resulted in 13 changes to the original draft Agenda. Anyone interested in getting involved with the Health Care for All Coalition can go to the [Health Care for All website](#).

One of the exciting legislative goals that WVAHC will be focused on is the creation of a new **Medicaid Buy-in Program**. A similar program exists in West Virginia for people who are disabled or who have a chronic health condition: the Medicaid Work Incentive (M-WIN) program. The new Medicaid Buy-in program would expand choice and ensure affordable health coverage for more West Virginia workers who are hurt by the Medicaid “cliff effect” – they earn over Medicaid income eligibility levels but do not have an offer of affordable job-based health insurance and struggle to afford the premiums and out-of-pocket costs of a healthcare.gov marketplace plan. In 2021, the Health Care for All Coalition worked with Delegate Evan Worrell (R-Cabell) to introduce a Medicaid Buy-in [bill](#).

DIRECTOR'S NOTE

BY: JESSIE ICE, PH.D.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As another year flew by, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care has been especially busy! 2021 has been a challenging year for many West Virginians struggling to rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic—it has impacted every part of our lives from work to school to travel and to health. WVAHC staff and community partners have worked tirelessly this fall to identify needs and solutions. We are reminded that:

“Our mission is to bring a consumer voice to public policy so that every West Virginian has quality, affordable health care and the opportunity to lead an informed, healthy, and productive life.”

To that end, we have spent the bulk of the fall educating consumers on the events and policies that will impact them. The federal Build Back Better Act—still to be passed (see our article in this newsletter)—has the opportunity to be one of the most life changing pieces of legislation we have seen since the Affordable Care Act. We worked with multiple state and federal groups to educate lawmakers and the public on the potential impact this legislation could have for West Virginia.

At the same time, we held our quarterly Medicaid Coalition meeting with WV DHHR and our annual Medicaid Summit where we hosted a number of panels with experts from West Virginia and throughout the country. Topics included: Keeping Kids' Vaccinated and Accessing Preventative Care, Medicaid Lesson from the COVID-19 Pandemic, Story Telling: Our Most Powerful Tool, Community Health Workers: Advancing Health Equity in West Virginia, Medicaid and the SUD Crisis in Our Communities, and discussion of our [Health Care Agenda](#).

We also held a separate Kid's Health Conference covering topics under theme of Mental Health Needs for Kids such as: The Impact of Racial Inequality, the Impact of Domestic Violence on Youth Mental Health, Foster Care and the Needs of Foster Children, Mental Health in the WV Schools, and Project AWARE.

Each year, working with partner organizations, we identify policy options for the State of West Virginia that can identify needs in the community and ways to address those needs through our state legislature. The West Virginia Health Care for All Coalition, made up of statewide advocacy groups, grassroots organizations, and community members, advances our vision and advocates to ensure that all West Virginians have access to health care that is equitable, comprehensive, affordable, non-judgmental, and high-quality. This year's agenda topics include:

- Addressing racial disparities in health access and outcomes
- Increasing the number of West Virginians covered and addressing the Medicaid “cliff effect”
- Investing in public health
- Protecting West Virginians from having their financial security destroyed due to medical debt
- Addressing the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs and medical supplies
- Prioritizing mental health
- Expanding mental health services for children in our schools and in other community settings
- Advancing evidence-based Substance Use Disorder (SUD) prevention, treatment, and recovery services
- Passing pro-family and worker policies that protect health and well-being
- Addressing the maternal and infant mortality crisis
- Expanding the Medicaid dental benefit by raising the cap on annual covered service
- Making vision care a covered benefit under Medicaid
- Ensuring that Medicaid enrollees have access to comprehensive respiratory care in and outside the home
- Utilizing Medicaid to address factors that impact health
- Expanding long-term care options available to West Virginians
- Investing in our home care workforce

While all this was happening, we had some staffing changes. Lisa Diehl—a long time advocate and valuable staff member—has retired and we brought on India Firth to help with our story collection efforts. The staff at WVAHC has worked tirelessly this fall to keep the voice of the people heard on issues state and federal and there are not enough ways to thank them.

I'd like to remind everyone that the ACA Marketplace is open for health insurance enrollment. If you enroll by December 15th coverage will start January 1, 2022. However, the deadline for enrollment has been extended back to its original length and consumers have until January 15th to register. Visit healthcare.gov or free assistance is available through the West Virginia Navigator Program at acanavigator.com/wv/home or by calling 1-844-WV-CARES.

As we prepare for 2022, we invite you to get involved with our organization! There are numerous ways to participate from helping at events, sharing your story (one of our most powerful advocacy tools), or even donating to help us do more great work. Contact us directly at info@wvahc.org or feel free to reach out to any of our staff. Thank you all for your support and I hope 2022 is a happy and healthy one!

MEET INDIA FRITH



I'm India Frith and I'm from Manhattan, New York, but was raised on the West side of Charleston, West Virginia. I graduated from Capital High School in 2019 and plan on attending West Virginia University in Morgantown to study Social Work. I am passionate about pursuing a career helping my community - which I discovered was my passion after partnering with several West Virginia-based advocacy organizations including Black Voters Impact Initiative, American Civil Liberties Union of WV, Young WV, Gift Project, WV Can't Wait, and many more. Each of these experiences has helped me to learn, network, and build relationships with my community members. I'm especially passionate about learning skills that will help me encourage other young people and adults to be more politically involved and improve our state for the next generation.

As a young person in West Virginia it may feel like there is no place for us in the political area of our life, but there are many ways we can be involved in advocacy on a community level. For example, some of the work I have done in my community includes volunteering at events, canvassing, and talking to my neighbors about important and helpful bills that can help kids and parents such as The Crown Act and the enhanced Child Tax Credit, and facilitating workshops for teens on being politically involved. There really are so many ways to get involved and help make our communities better!

Working with West Virginians for Affordable Health Care gives me the opportunity to build on these experiences and expand my knowledge on ways I can help my community. As a young person, I'm learning how my perspective is valuable, and why it's up to our generation to advocate for the rights of low income people so that we can all take care of our families the best we can.

Some of the many important things I'm excited to start working on with West Virginians for Affordable Health Care are:

-- Learning about and sharing information on West Virginia Medicaid and how it can help them get access to important health care services and prescriptions. Making prescription drugs affordable to those who need them is a big need in my community. The cost of medicine is expensive and some can not afford it, so they would not be able to take it to better their health. I believe all people deserve access to Robust, Quality, and Consumer friendly Medicaid. That means health care will be available to all people no matter your income or status: including quality and accountability of Medicaid Managed Care services; expanding comprehensive Substance Use Disorder recovery resources, and vision benefits for adults. Expanding Medicaid eligibility would lead to advancements in consumer rights and protections in health insurance and healthcare as well as improvements to the quality and value of the health care system: meaning better care for all of us.

-- Advocating for better nutritional options in the schools and in communities where access to produce and other healthy foods is limited. If you are experiencing hunger or food insecurity, some useful programs for nutrition are: Child Nutrition Program, Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs, WIC works resource system and many more.

-- Reducing housing costs and expanding options for low income housing in West Virginia. When the federal Build Back Better legislative package passes in Congress, it will expand rental assistance for West Virginia renters. Basically what this can do is help families who want to buy or rent a house. Lots of families are spending 30% of their income on rent and that prevents them from purchasing a home, and that makes homeownership more of a challenge for many families.

MEET INDIA CON'T

-- Advance strong family and medical leave policies. Again, this policy is in the Build Back Better legislation being debated in Congress right now. With federal paid leave, if you have to miss work to take care of a family or community member, you will be paid for it - for up to four weeks. Also in Build Back Better is more help for families with the cost of home- and community-based care for elder family members or those with disabilities so they can stay at home rather than go to a nursing home. Some people have to leave their jobs or even get fired because they have to take care of their family due to the high cost of caretakers.

-- Advancing racial health equity and justice will be part of all the work I take on at West Virginians for Affordable Health Care. This means that no matter your race, every person will receive equal quality treatment and not have to worry about health care providers acting on biases about you as a person just because of your race. It is about being treated with respect. This is important because people need to feel safe to go to the doctor and not be afraid to be ignored or told wrong information. Many African Americans have had bad experiences or remember a past traumatic event at the doctors office, which can lead them to not want to go to the doctor for a regular check-up or even to stay away if they are sick. Many African Americans turn to home-made remedies that their parents or grandparents used to make them feel better. And some of these home-made remedies need to be respected by doctors because they do work and they can work with other treatments.

Working with West Virginians for Affordable Health Care I have already learned about the proposed federal Build Back Better bill. This exciting bill brings down costs that have held back families in West Virginia by cutting taxes for working people, and making childcare, home care, education, healthcare, and housing more affordable. The plan also provides new learning opportunities for children, helps working parents make ends meet, and positions the economy for stronger growth for years to come. We need these policies enacted in our communities now. This bill can help families in so many ways, and would make the things that were hard for them much easier.

There are families struggling to maintain these basic responsibilities such as paying bills, buying clothes for their kids, buying needed medication, attending regular doctor, vision, and dental appointments, and their kids' extra curricular activities and more. And all they need is access to the resources and help so they can grow, know better, and do better from there.

I'm excited to help my community by learning more about the health care system in West Virginia and how it can be improved to meet the needs of low income people in our state. I hope to share what I learn through my work with WVAHC with other young people and parents so they too can start to make a difference. Young people are needed! They can start programs in their community, create centers with services and support, organize events with friends and family, and find ways to contribute to individual food and household needs in respectful ways.

One easy way you can start being an advocate is by sharing your personal story for a cause you believe in. Our leaders need to hear the voices of the people impacted by healthcare issues in order to make meaningful change.

Everyone should be educated on the proper and respectful way of dealing with their community members, local officials, and any conflicts in their community. And once that first step is done, then we can build unity within our communities and be able to work together on what we need for everyone.

If you're interested in sharing your healthcare story, I'd love to hear from you! Contact me at: india@wvahc.org

ANNOUNCING: THE NOVEMBER '22 HEALTH CARE HERO AWARD RECIPIENT: CHARLOTTE NORRIS

BY MARIAH PLANTE - WVAHC STORY COLLECTION COORDINATOR



West Virginians for Affordable Health Care is pleased to announce that **Charlotte Norris** has been chosen as the recipient of the first quarterly **West Virginia Health Care Hero Award**, in recognition of her outstanding contributions to the health and wellness of her local community in Berkeley County, WV.

This award celebrates individuals who take personal initiative to improve access to and delivery of health services in West Virginia and in their local communities. These outstanding West Virginians go above and beyond to connect others with local health services and take the initiative to create and protect vital resources in their communities. Their everyday acts of heroism inspire us to think globally, creatively, and strive to overcome barriers to equitable health care in our state.

Charlotte Norris wears many hats: community organizer, development and fundraising guru, board member to multiple nonprofit organizations, and outreach minister and trustee of her church. Throughout her career she has served organizations including March of Dimes, Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the American Red Cross, Eastern WV Community Foundation, and United Way of the Eastern Panhandle--to name a few.

In each of these roles, Charlotte Norris shines as a “collector and connector” of people; able to identify the humanitarian needs of her community in Berkeley County, while simultaneously zeroing-in on the potential strengths of individuals, then plugging them into opportunities for service where they can make a difference.

When I spoke with her over zoom a few weeks ago, Norris explained her approach to organizing is a part of her personal ministry:

I get to see what the needs are in the community and connect to a lot of different people and organizations, so I've always looked at how people can be resources....I believe in not duplicating [work], but looking at how people can collaborate and work together.

Growing up in Kansas, Norris says she was drawn to community service from an early age. She also credits professional development opportunities during her senior year in high school for giving her an outlet to develop her interest in community organizing.

In 1990, she made a temporary but serendipitous move to West Virginia while working for Girl Scouts of the United States of America. She later returned in 1995 to resettle in her husband's native-Berkeley County, where they raised two daughters. Together they serve their community through several health care, education, and food-related initiatives, and as active members of their church's ministry.

The church her family attends, (in addition to being the oldest African American Baptist Church in the state) has a congregation full of other West Virginia-transplants like herself, who have come from away and chosen to make their lives here. When you speak to her, Norris's pride in her adopted home is palpable:

That's one thing I love about being in West Virginia: being part of the South Berkeley family. It's just a very close knit community and they do a lot to support the community....Our church is located in a downtown Martinsburg neighborhood that also has a Title-1 school next door to us.

CHARLOTTE NORRIS CON'T (1)

Our church is in what's considered a "food desert." So I'm also involved in a lot of food related initiatives.

Food deserts are areas that have limited access to affordable, nutritious foods like fresh fruits and vegetables. They are common in many pockets of the United States, and found often in rural, low-income, and minority communities where distance, cost, lack of transportation, and other socio-economic factors make it difficult and time consuming to access supermarkets and prepare healthy meals.

A few years ago Norris began taking steps to combat food insecurity in her area head-on, when she learned the school in her neighborhood would no longer provide a summer education program, nor would they operate the annual summer feeding program that served meals to students over the break. This created a sudden and pressing need to feed the children in her community, many of whom come from low income households.

Norris and fellow ministry volunteers teamed up with another faith-led organization, Combined Community Ministries, to distribute "Kidz Power Packs" to the students at Burke Street Elementary School.

They didn't have summer school, which, for this community means that no meals are being served. So that was one of the first outreach opportunities that we did as a church. We used volunteers from the church, the community, and local businesses to provide programming as well as meals.

Over the years the ministry has joined forces with other community organizations on similar food-related initiatives, including planting a community garden and tackling the ambitious task of reviving the Martinsburg Farmers Market--both significant steps toward eliminating food insecurity in the Eastern Panhandle.

There's always a lot of good going on in the community. Being able to access it is sometimes the challenge....Whether it's transportation, work schedules that don't line up, whatever the issue might be--I just try to look at ways to be creative and work across different organizations to make that happen.

Her knack for strategy helps Norris spend energy and resources effectively. Being able to collaborate and adapt as needs change is also key.

Her mission pivoted yet again when she was called to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in Berkeley County by Reverend James Patterson and the Partnership of African-American Churches. Together they worked to address gaps in access to COVID-19 testing and vaccinations within the African American community in the Eastern Panhandle. "We found that there were people who desperately wanted to get vaccinated early on, but were not for whatever reason getting called back or understanding how to access appointments," Norris recalls.

One obstacle revealed was difficulty had by many elderly parishioners while trying to navigate automated phone systems and online portals for their vaccines. In response, Charlotte coordinated with other church leaders and staff to contact people personally and guide them through the process, often inputting patient information herself to secure their appointments. The work during those months was very "hands on," she says. "We were trying to make sure that people knew and could navigate the process."

Norris then began organizing site-specific vaccine clinics throughout the Eastern Panhandle to accommodate as many people as possible, for as long as they had supplies. These events turned out to be a major success in boosting vaccination rates--likely saving hundreds, potentially thousands of lives in West Virginia.

CHARLOTTE NORRIS CON'T (2)

During our conversation, we often circled back to the topic of representation in health care, particularly as a means of improving access for immigrant communities, Spanish-speakers, and African Americans. Lack of representation amongst health care providers can sometimes contribute to medical hesitation in patients or a lack of awareness of services available. Norris points out that sharing a cultural similarity with one's doctor can help a person overcome those obstacles. "There's biases in healthcare that we need to address," she cautions. "It's really important for people to see people that look like themselves when they go to seek medical attention."

When asked what we can do to promote racial equity and representation in health care, Norris says the work must begin with educating the next generation, fostering their success, providing opportunities for growth, and encouraging them to pursue health science and technology careers in West Virginia:

I think medical students need to have a broad range of experiences. So we have to create that pipeline of young people going into those health science fields...and provide those educational opportunities, particularly for med students.

One such education initiative Charlotte has been involved with specifically targets young people who show an aptitude for math and science. It guarantees them a university tuition waiver for participating during all four years of high school. Recently, she encountered the results of this program face-to-face when she learned that her grandchild's pediatrician is a product of that very program.

My final question for Charlotte Norris was this:

What advice would you give to a young person who's interested in pursuing a career in community organizing or advocacy?

I would say to find that thing that you are passionate about and, and whatever it is, there's probably an organization, there's an opportunity for you to volunteer. People are always welcoming to someone that's energetic and willing to work. But it has to be something that you're passionate about.

Charlotte also recommends young people to seek out opportunities to discover that passion if they haven't already. AmeriCorps' year-round or summer VISTA program, the Peace Corps, and Teach for America all match young volunteers with compatible service needs near and far.

There's just so much that can come from those opportunities when young people have that and to provide service back to the community. All of those kinds of programs are important to the next generation.

Do you know someone who's making a positive impact on the health of your community or state? Nominate them for the West Virginia Health Care Hero Award. The form will only take a few minutes to fill out. All nominations will be reviewed by the staff of WVAHC and an awardee will be selected quarterly. Submit the nomination form → [here!](#)

HEALTH CARE HERO

HEALTH CARE FOR ALL WV UPDATE

BY: KIM JONES, COORDINATOR



VIRTUAL HEALTH CARE SUMMIT 2021

On October 26th and 27th, Health Care for All, with our coalition partners, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care, West Virginia Citizen Action Group, West Virginia Center on Budget and Policy, and with the generous support of the RX Foundation, we held our 2021 Health Care Summit. We had a panel of excellent speakers on health care issues the people of our state are facing from finding affordable health insurance, childrens' health, Substance Use Disorders, to Health Equity.

We also launched our 2022 Legislative Health Agenda. Our regional coordinators and coalition members introduced the individual policies that we have been working on and hope to get passed in the Legislative Session in January. We have policies on a Medicaid Buy-In, medical debt and collection, vision coverage, paid family leave, mental health coverage, doula care, and much more.

BUILD BACK BETTER

We have also had the honor to work with many concerned West Virginians and our partner organization on the Build Back Better Plan. As I write this, on this beautiful November morning, the House of Representatives has just voted on and passed this historic investment in the working people of America. It now goes to the Senate to be voted on in December. We will continue to support this legislation that will make healthcare more affordable and accessible to millions of Americans, invest in home healthcare jobs, childcare, universal pre-K, insulin copay cap, extension of the Child Tax Credit, expansion of Medicare services and more. We will continue to urge Senators Capito and Manchin to support the people of our state, who will benefit so greatly from this historic investment in the future of working families.

2022 WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Health Care for All, our coordinators, partners and volunteers are eager to start working with legislators on both sides of the aisle on the policies in our agenda. The bills we hope to pass were collected from asking the people of West Virginia what healthcare struggles their families and communities face and what changes they need to see made. We deserve better laws supporting the health of our citizens. You can help! If you would like to work with us to make the changes we need, please like and follow our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/healthcareforallwv> or contact me at [hcfawvva.org](https://www.hcfawvva.org)

We are only as strong as your support!

Thanks to the generous support of our volunteers, donors, and supporters like you, West Virginians for Affordable Health Care is able to defend and protect Medicaid and other important programs for West Virginians. On behalf of our staff and board we say thank you ensuring that every West Virginian has access to affordable, quality healthcare.

We know that in the coming years, there will be attempts in Washington and in Charleston to undermine these programs that protect the physical and financial health of West Virginians. More than 650,000 West Virginians – children, adults with disabilities, seniors, and hard-working low-wage families - rely on Medicaid. Our fight is truly about saving the lives of our family, friends, and neighbors.

Your support will make a real, lasting impact on the health and wellbeing of West Virginians. Please know that all donations are tax deductible.

Membership Levels

\$20 Concerned Citizen

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Action Supporter: Students/under-employed folks --

Signup as a member and share information on issues with friends; write letters to the editor to share your concerns on healthcare topics, make your legislators aware of how much healthcare issues mean to you!

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