



855 Jefferson Ave, PO Box 1329
Redwood City, CA 94063

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

February 15, 2021

Dear Secretary Cochran,

On behalf of GoFundMe, I want to share my appreciation for the work the administration has done to establish a special enrollment period for individuals and families seeking health insurance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. With job losses and health care needs continuing to mount synchronously amid COVID-19, Americans across the country turn to GoFundMe to seek community support in paying their medical bills.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, over 2 million more people became uninsured between 2016 and 2019. With millions of working-age adults in the U.S. lacking adequate insurance coverage, it's no surprise that so many Americans must rely on fundraising to cover health care costs and medical debt. In fact, roughly one-third of all fundraisers on GoFundMe are in the medical category. While we are proud to support folks across the country in reaching their fundraising goals, we can all agree that our platform is not a sufficient replacement for health care coverage.

GoFundMe has become a leading indicator for the economic struggles Americans are facing, and we want to offer support that goes beyond fundraising. Between February 15 and May 15, GoFundMe will provide resources and information about the special enrollment period. Through our homepage, email, and social media channels, we will encourage tens of millions of people in the GoFundMe community to visit [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) and help spread the word about the special enrollment period.

We share the belief that access to affordable, comprehensive health care is a right, not a privilege. Millions of Americans have lost their employer-sponsored insurance¹, leaving them unprotected in the midst of the worst public health crisis our nation has seen in over a century. The need for robust, affordable health care is critical, and we are encouraged by the administration's commitment to increase access to this much-needed social safety net.

It's clearer than ever that we need all hands on deck to address the systems of inequity that bring so many Americans to GoFundMe. A fundraising platform cannot—and should not—be a solution to complex, systemic problems; only meaningful public policy can effectively resolve those. We stand ready to work with the administration to close the health care coverage gap.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby Whithorne". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bobby Whithorne
Sr. Director of Policy and Communications
GoFundMe