

Protecting Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act

Lobby Visit Talking Points

Tell Congress: Protect Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) from cruel and counterproductive cuts during the budget reconciliation process. Cutting our health care to pay for tax cuts for billionaires is immoral and irresponsible.

It is important to communicate how Medicaid cuts would specifically impact your state. [Click here to find a fact sheet on Medicaid in your state from KFF.](#)

We have a moral duty to protect Medicaid.

- Across the country, people of faith and goodwill agree that **health care is a basic right for all people—no exceptions**. The Catholic tradition clearly affirms this.
- **No one should go bankrupt or even die because they cannot afford needed medical care.**
 - Medical debt is the leading cause of bankruptcy in the U.S. For most of us, a single health crisis without affordable care would be devastating.
- **We have a moral duty to ensure a strong Medicaid system and protect our families and communities with affordable, quality health care.**

Medicaid is a lifeline for 71 million people.

- **More than 21% of people in the U.S. rely on Medicaid.** That's one in five people!
- **In our state, _____ (#) people depend on Medicaid.** That number includes essential workers and their families, children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Medicaid helps us thrive!

- **Medicaid saves lives and keeps our country healthy.**
 - Medicaid makes health care and insurance affordable so that we do not have to forgo preventative care or even potentially life-saving tests and treatments.
- **Medicaid covers more than 40 million children, including ____ (#) kids in our state.**
 - More than half of all Medicaid beneficiaries are children.
 - **40% of all births in the U.S. are covered by Medicaid.** Medicaid protects parents during pregnancy and childbirth and gets babies off to a healthy start in their first year.
- **Workers need Medicaid.** Two out of three working-age Medicaid enrollees work in our nation's most essential yet lowest-paying jobs, which often don't offer health insurance.
- **Medicaid covers 7.2 million senior citizens** who face the staggering costs of nursing home, home health, and other complex care.

- **Nearly one million veterans** need Medicaid for help with challenging health needs like PTSD that are not paid for by veterans' programs.
- **Our health care systems depend upon Medicaid.**
 - **Medicaid is the nation's largest health insurer.** Our hospitals and other health programs and facilities rely on Medicaid for financial stability.
 - Medicaid cuts will especially devastate health care access for **rural communities**.
 - **If Medicaid is cut back, facilities that provide needed medical services will close across the country.**

Yet, the House budget reconciliation bill is the largest cut to Medicaid in history. It will raise costs for us and leave an estimated 14 million people uninsured, by:

- **Taking away Medicaid coverage from people for not meeting new, complicated paperwork requirements.**
 - So-called "work requirements" are the opposite of common sense, and will actually make it harder for us to get the care we need to get and stay healthy enough to work.
- **Adding barriers to eligibility and enrollment processes** in Medicaid and ACA marketplaces.
- **Taking away coverage from immigrants** living lawfully in the U.S.
- **Adding new out-of-pocket costs** for many Medicaid and ACA marketplace enrollees.
 - Annual out-of-pocket costs will increase *by more than \$1000* for low- and middle-income families.
 - More than 1 million seniors will pay higher Medicare premiums because they will not have Medicaid.
- **Allowing premium spikes for ACA marketplace enrollees.** People with health insurance through the marketplaces could see the cost of their premiums more than double.

Cutting health care and raising costs is wrong.

Our families and communities across the country will suffer from this bill. Medicaid is critical to the health and economic security of workers and our families, people with disabilities, veterans, our elderly, and our children. **Medicaid helps our communities thrive.**

Tell your Members of Congress: Do not cut our health care so the ultra-wealthy can get another tax break.

Use your vote to protect Medicaid and protect our health!

NETWORK is indebted to KFF, Protect Our Care, and Families USA, whose analyses of Medicaid and its impact on the nation's wellbeing helped to inform this document.