

MAKE HEALTH CARE WORK FOR *All* OF US

Talking Points:

On the 61st Birthday of Medicaid and Medicare, Urge Congress to Make Health Care Work for ALL of Us

Medicaid and **Medicare** are the nation's most popular health care programs, together providing coverage to over 160 million people of all ages. While Medicare is the top source of health coverage for the fastest growing segment of the population, people 65 and older, Medicaid is the leading source of coverage for children, people with disabilities, workers without access to employer sponsored insurance, pregnant women, and seniors who need long-term care services at home or in nursing homes. As a lead source of funding for hospitals, clinics, nursing homes and school health centers local economies and state budgets, Medicaid is also a critical source of jobs, services, public health support and even emergency response in times of crisis.

Despite an astounding track record of success, Medicaid has less to celebrate this year than on past birthdays. That's because President Trump signed a new law in July of 2025 that slashes almost \$1trillion in funding to Medicaid, the largest cut ever.. Once fully implemented, Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA), will:

- ***Strip 10 million people of Medicaid coverage*** Including [\[Look Up Your State Fact Sheet\]](#) who are at risk of losing coverage here in [\[state\]](#).
- ***Force hundreds of rural hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes to shut down*** because of reduced federal funding and changes to state funding mechanisms that support Medicaid. [\[Look up number of hospitals and clinics at risk in your state on p.11 of this report\]](#) or [see map here](#).
- ***Cut state budgets and all kinds of services.*** Medicaid is the largest source of federal funding to states, so funding reductions could result in a wide array of cuts to all kinds of services from school programs for kids with disabilities to substance use disorder treatment to transportation services for seniors.

Republicans in Congress made these historic cuts to Medicaid to pay for more tax breaks for the wealthy and new tax breaks for corporations that will benefit the very same health insurance companies, monopoly hospitals and prescription drug corporations that [price-gouge consumers to boost profits](#). Under OBBBA, corporations get to keep more of their profits because they pay much less in taxes even as they raise premiums, hike costs and extract as much money from

Medicaid and Medicare as possible. Meanwhile, people who lose Medicaid under the law have no other source of coverage and can't afford the sky-rocketing cost of private insurance.

President Trump and Republicans in Congress have taken our nation in the wrong direction on health care. Instead of cutting the nation's most efficient and cost effective health care plans, Medicaid and Medicare, they should increase affordability by expanding and duplicating features of Medicaid and Medicare that save money and ensure coverage. For example:

- ***Negotiated Prices:*** Medicaid and Medicare cost less than private insurance because prices in these plans are negotiated by the government rather than dictated by the providers or insurers who participate. To solve the health care affordability crisis, it's time to address the root cause: the power of health corporations to set high prices and hike them at will.
- ***Public Instead of For Profit:*** Profit-driven entities in health care drive up costs, shift incentives and result in shareholders and corporations being a higher priority than patients. Traditional Medicare for instance, is more cost efficient than the private "Medicare Advantage" plans that make huge profits by charging more and denying patients care through prior authorization. Americans should have the choice of a public option like Medicare rather than being forced into a for-profit plan.
- ***Universal Access:*** Although Medicare payment rates are lower than private insurance rates, virtually all (98%) of non-pediatric physicians participate in the Medicare program. Medicare enrollees report access to physician services that is equal to, or better than, people with private insurance which limits patients to networks of providers dictated by the insurer.

Policy-makers can learn a lot from Medicaid and Medicare about how to rein in prices, make coverage and care affordable, increase options, ensure universal access, and even simplify the system. **And they should take action now to move in a better direction on health care.**

[Polls](#) show Americans are angry about the cuts President Trump and the GOP made in OBBA which will make health care worse for millions. But Americans aren't clamoring to return to the same problems we had before. The new Congress must move in a different direction to address long-standing issues and the root of affordability problems in the system.

It's time for our elected representatives to stand up to the corporations and **Make Health Care Work for ALL of Us.**