

Protecting Medicaid: Talking Points

Tell Congress: Protect Medicaid 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, _____ (insert # here) people depend on Medicaid.**
 - That number includes essential workers and their families, children, seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities.

Our country needs Medicaid.

- **Medicaid saves lives and keeps our country healthy.**
 - When health care and insurance are unaffordable, we are often forced to forgo preventative care or even potentially life-saving tests and treatments.
 - By making care accessible, Medicaid literally saves lives.
- **Medicaid covers more than 40 million children, including ____ (#) kids in our state.**
 - More than half of all Medicaid beneficiaries are children.
 - Children who benefit from Medicaid have higher rates of high school and college completion and better wages as adults.
 - **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.
- **Our workers need Medicaid.** Two out of three working-age Medicaid enrollees work in our nation's most essential yet lowest-paying jobs. They typically have no other health insurance options or sick leave.

- **Our veterans and seniors rely on Medicaid.**
 - 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**. Over 600 rural hospitals were at risk of closure in 2023. *(Consider emphasizing this point if you live in a state with many rural areas.)*
 - **If Medicaid is cut back, facilities that provide needed medical services will close across the country.**

Yet, some lawmakers in Congress want to recklessly cut Medicaid, including with dangerous proposals such as:

- **Lifetime eligibility caps** that threaten to leave millions of us and our families with no health care coverage for much of our lifetimes.
- **Ineffective work-reporting requirements that make no sense and create costly administrative burdens.**
 - Most non-elderly Medicaid enrollees who do not have reportable income have disabilities, care for family members, or attend educational programs.
- **"Restructuring" schemes that are nothing more than thinly veiled attempts to weaken Medicaid and take away our coverage.**
 - These schemes will shift unsustainable costs to the states and will lead to more costly and reduced coverage for our families and communities.

Cutting Medicaid is immoral, reckless, and utterly bad policy.

Slashing Medicaid funding will cause enormous suffering for our families and communities— especially for workers and their families, the elderly with complex care needs, people with disabilities, and children whose future depends on a healthy start.

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 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.