

Unprecedented cuts to Medicaid

The Republican health care bill and President Trump's budget cuts Medicaid by \$1.4 trillion over 10 years. Cuts of this magnitude mean fewer low-income Americans would have health care coverage and those covered will pay more out-of-pocket for their care.

Republican Health Care Bill

The American Health Care Act, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on May 4, 2017, cuts Medicaid by \$834 billion over 10 years. This measure is pending passage in the Senate. Under the bill, beneficiaries would lose the guaranteed right to all medically-necessary services. The bill would instead turn Medicaid into a block grant that caps funding to states on a per-capita basis. States would be given a smaller and fixed amount of money to provide health care coverage for low-income citizens of all ages. With less funding states are likely to limit enrollment or increase cost sharing for individuals.

President Trump's Budget

President Trump's budget for Fiscal Year 2018 includes the cuts in the Republican health care bill and an additional \$610 billion from the Medicaid program. This is a 47% reduction to the program. To deal with the loss in funding, states will have to ration care.

Who is at risk if Medicaid is cut?

More than 72.5 million people receive Medicaid benefits, including 30.3 million children, 10.3 million people with disabilities and 5.8 million seniors.

Long-term Care and Support Services

Medicaid pays for 61% of all nursing home and home care services. A year of nursing home care can cost as much as \$90,000, making Medicaid an essential program for older Americans. For 2017, seniors with incomes up to \$26,460 for an individual may qualify to receive these benefits.

Cost-sharing Assistance for Low-income Seniors

The Medicaid program also helps low-income seniors pay the monthly Medicare Part B premiums of \$121.80 through the Medicare Savings Program (MSP), based on income.

Medicaid Expansion

Since 2013, Medicaid expansion in 32 states has enabled more than 12 million Americans to obtain health care coverage. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) raised the income eligibility to include individuals with incomes up to 138% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$16,400 for individual and \$33,600 in 2017) for a family of four.