



Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director
Gavin Newsom, Governor

February 21, 2025

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The Honorable [Name]
United States House of Representatives
[Location] House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative [Name]:

The California Commission on Aging (CCoA) is established in state statute as the principal advocate for older Californians. We have had the privilege to work on behalf of thousands of Californians to whom Medicaid has made a meaningful difference for fifty years.

Today, we are writing to urge you to exclude any Medicaid cuts, work requirements, or any changes that would limit funding or eligibility from budget reconciliation or other legislation.

Medicaid, or Medi-Cal in California, provides essential health insurance for older adults, individuals with disabilities, veterans, low-income adults and children, and caregivers, among others. In addition to health care, Medicaid also funds critical home and community-based service (HCBS) programs such as the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program that assists older adults and individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes and communities, and nursing facility care and Medicaid Buy-In Program for Working People with Disabilities. It is important to note that Medi-Cal also supports individuals with developmental disabilities through regional centers and 44% of direct care worker households rely on Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal promotes these individuals' ability to go to work and care for their loved ones. As a lifeline for many, 14.9 million Californians rely on Medi-Cal every day for their health, safety, and independence.

In your District {Number}, [Number] of your constituents would be severely impacted by cuts to Medicaid, including:¹

- [Number] health coverage for workers, people with disabilities, children, and older adults (Medi-Cal)
- [Number] people receiving support to live in their home (IHSS)
- [Number] people with developmental disabilities (regional centers)
- [Number] foster youth



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Families across your district depend on Medi-Cal to access wellness checks, cancer screenings, ongoing treatment for chronic health conditions, assisted living and nursing home care, and other essential services that would be out of reach without this vital program. For many people with disabilities and older adults, timely access to needed care is a matter of life or death--and Medi-Cal is the only program that can meet their needs.

Proposed cuts would force California to cut vital programs and services that federal law does not require to be covered. Likely targets include HCBS programs, dental, vision, and hearing care, along with expanded eligibility for Medicare Savings Programs that assist individuals with limited income and resources pay for some of the costs associated with Medicare .²

Finally, providing access to care in physician offices with Medi-Cal helps individuals avoid expensive hospitalizations and reduces reliance on overcrowded, understaffed emergency rooms for routine care. Medicaid is also a critical funding source for many hospitals, **especially rural ones**, to keep their doors open. Work requirements create unnecessary administrative barriers that lead to coverage losses, and research shows they do not improve employment outcomes.³

Access to Medicaid is a matter of life, death, and independence for millions of Americans, including individuals with disabilities, older adults, caregivers, and the direct care workforce. **We strongly oppose per capita caps, block grants, work requirements, eligibility restrictions, enrollment barriers, Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) changes, and any other cuts or harmful changes to the Medicaid program.** The result of these proposals is the same: eradicating coverage from those who rely on Medicaid for healthcare and long-term services and supports. Please stand with Californians in protecting Medicaid by opposing any attempts to weaken this essential program.

If you have any questions, contact Karol Swartzlander, Executive Director, at (916) 419-7593.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Lindeman
Chair
California Commission on Aging