



The AHCA Dramatically Cuts Medicaid Putting Kids, Seniors, People with Disabilities at Risk

The American Health Care Act (AHCA) is profoundly harmful to the 3.1 million children, seniors, persons with disabilities and other Illinoisans who depend on the Medicaid program for their health care. One in two children in our state depend on Medicaid for their coverage and the majority of long-term care services are funded by Medicaid. The drastic cuts to Medicaid in the AHCA will cause millions to lose coverage and their ability to obtain lifesaving treatments they depend on.

How is the AHCA Harmful?

1. The AHCA is estimated to kick 14 million people out of the program by 2026. This would be arguably the most drastic reduction in the social safety net in our nation's history.
2. The AHCA effectively ends the Medicaid expansion which covers 650,000 Illinoisans, by cutting federal support in half by 2020—an amount too great for the state to make up. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that 95% adults covered by Medicaid expansion will no longer have coverage after the AHCA is fully implemented.
3. The AHCA ends the traditional Medicaid program as we know it by converting the current financing system into one with a capped amount of federal funding available to states – regardless of the needs a state may have thanks to a public health crisis or recession. Moreover, the capped amount increases much more slowly than the cost of health services—forcing Illinois to slash coverage and eligibility to cope with the massive funding cut.
4. Medicaid cuts will have an especially devastating impact on kids with special needs. Not only would they be at risk of losing coverage, but the special education services they depend on in school could be cut as Medicaid funding dries up.
5. The \$839 billion in Medicaid cuts proposed by the AHCA are so deep that the program will actually be cut in raw dollars. This means that even though the population is growing and health costs are increasing, the program will receive fewer total dollars. Don't trust anything to the contrary – Medicaid will be gutted by \$839 billion (approximately \$40 billion in federal Medicaid funding over 10 years in Illinois) when taking inflation into account and even in absolute dollars.
6. Some in Congress argue that states need more “flexibility” to run their Medicaid program. This is Washington speak for cutting billions from the program and leaving states with nothing but bad choices – cut kids, seniors and people with disabilities from the program, roll-back doctor-recommended and lifesaving services or raise taxes on everyone to make up for the budget shortfall.

**Cutting Medicaid by \$839 billion will blow a hole in the Illinois state budget –
Kids, Seniors, People with Disabilities will be hurt the most**

Protect Our Care Illinois is a statewide coalition of health care advocates, providers, consumers, and workers, standing together to protect and expand access to quality affordable health care provided by the Affordable Care Act and Medicaid.

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