



## **Medicaid provides vital health care and improved economic security to women**

### **Medicaid is critical to women's health throughout their lives.**

- Medicaid offers care to over 40 million women, offering coverage to low-income pregnant women, low-income parents, older-adult women (seniors), women with disabilities, and in Illinois and other states that expanded Medicaid eligibility, uninsured low income women.<sup>1</sup>
- Women are significantly more likely to live in poverty than men and therefore Medicaid is a vital source of health coverage for millions of women, who make up 2/3rds of adult Medicaid beneficiaries.<sup>2</sup>
- Medicaid covers nearly half of all births in the U.S. and 75% of all publicly funded family planning services.<sup>3</sup>
- More than 2/3rds of seniors who receive Medicaid are women. Women are more likely to live longer than men, experience disability and be poor. Nearly three out of four nursing home residents and two out of three people receiving home health care services are women.<sup>4</sup>

### **Cuts to Medicaid or repeal of Medicaid expansion will hurt working women.**

- Health insurance is key to women's well-being and economic stability. The Affordable Care Act made Medicaid available to millions of working women who had no health insurance from their employers.
- Between 2013-2015, more than 2.3 million working women aged 18-64 gained Medicaid coverage, a growth rate of 54%. As of 2015, 322,470 Illinois working women were covered by Medicaid.<sup>5</sup>

### **Medicaid advances women's economic security.**

- Medicaid coverage keeps women and their families from medical debt and bankruptcy.
- Medicaid's coverage of birth control allows women to determine whether and when to start a family, expanding their educational and career opportunities.
- Medicaid payments to health care providers directly support women's jobs. Critical health sector jobs are held by women -80% of workers in ambulatory health care services, 78% of workers in hospitals, 80% of workers in nursing and residential care facilities.<sup>6</sup>

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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<sup>1</sup> National Health Law Program (NHeLP), Protect Medicaid Funding, Women's Health, May 2015.

<sup>2</sup> National Women's Law Center (NWLC), *The Stealth Attack on Women's Health: What Caps on Medicaid Funding Would Mean for Women*, April, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

<sup>4</sup> Id.

<sup>5</sup> NWLC, *Affordable Care Act Repeal and Changes to Medicaid Threaten the Health and Economic Security of 2.3 Million Working Women Who Recently Gained Medicaid Coverage*, Feb. 2017.

<sup>6</sup> NWLC, *Medicaid: Major Job Creator for Women*, July, 2015.