

Protect Health Care for Children, and People with Disabilities

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Congress should defeat efforts to slash Medicaid and Medicare under the guise of replacing the Affordable Care Act (ACA). More than 35 million children are covered by Medicaid and more than 57 million seniors and people with disabilities depend on Medicare for their health care coverage.

▶ **Oppose Converting Medicaid to a Block Grant System**

- Proposals that block grant Medicaid would mean states receive a lump sum from the federal government to fund their Medicaid programs **ultimately cutting coverage for millions of kids and families across the country.**
- These cuts would be particularly devastating to low-income children and adults who **rely solely on the health benefits provided by Medicaid.**
- Block grants reduce federal spending, **shift costs to the states, and will lead to funding shortfalls** that will strain state budgets. Most states are already under tight budget constraints forcing them to make **critical decisions between adequately funding health care or public education.**

▶ **Oppose Converting Medicaid to a Per Capita Cap System**

- Under a per capita cap system states would receive a fixed dollar amount per beneficiary. **Such caps on federal funding fail to adjust for changes in need** caused by economic downturns, rising health care costs, or changes in technology that increase costs. **The inadequacy of this funding would grow over time** as the federal government's share falls below projected growth of program costs.
- Ultimately, **caps would force states to increase their own spending dramatically, cut eligibility, and reduce services and benefits.**

▶ **Oppose Proposals to Turn Medicare into a Voucher System**

- Proposals to turn Medicare into a "premium support" or voucher program **will shift a greater share of costs to seniors and disabled people as health care costs grow at a faster pace than federal support.**
- As costs outpace federal voucher levels **seniors will see their premiums rise and out-of-pocket costs increase.**
- [Statistics from the Kaiser Family Foundation](#) show that **50% of Medicare beneficiaries barely live above the poverty line and 66% of beneficiaries have more than 3 chronic health conditions.**
- **As the population of seniors balloons** we will see a dramatic number of Medicare beneficiaries who live on a **small, fixed-income be forced to make tough decisions between health care and basic necessities.**

▶ **Congress Should Extend the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP)**

- Funding expires September 30, 2017, locking that funding in now gives states the certainty to continue **providing health care services to millions of children** without disruption.
- Without CHIP the rate of uninsured kids will dramatically increase and approximately **8.4 million kids will have their health care coverage disrupted.** CHIP and Medicaid cover approximately 40% of all kids in the U.S.
- **Public polling shows the bipartisan popularity** of CHIP – [74% of respondents favored extending CHIP funding in one recent poll.](#)