



BACKGROUND AND SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS FOR ACP MEMBERS ON MEDICAID

WHAT WE ARE FACING: Medicaid is the largest single health insurer in the United States, providing health coverage to more than [79 million Americans](#). The program ensures that our most vulnerable populations, including low-income children, pregnant women, adults, seniors, and people with disabilities have access to comprehensive health care. It also provides insurance coverage to working adults in low paying jobs who do not have access to affordable health care coverage.

Congress is exploring policy changes to Medicaid, which could significantly reduce federal spending for the program, through a legislative process called budget reconciliation. Budget reconciliation allows for the U.S. Congress to expedite certain federal budget legislation by overriding the Senate's filibuster rules, allowing the Senate to pass legislation with a simple majority (51 votes) instead of a 60-vote super majority. The House of Representatives recently passed a budget resolution – a framework for how they will pay for the current administration's proposed tax cuts, which is the first step to budget reconciliation. The framework tasks the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over Medicaid, with finding \$880 billion in cuts, most of which will likely come from Medicaid, over the next 10 years.

ACP is concerned that reduction in Medicaid spending will have grave consequences for patients, communities and the entire health care system. We urge Congress to protect Medicaid and reject cuts or policy changes to the program that could hinder patient care. These proposals would likely lead to significant loss of health care coverage for our most vulnerable patient populations. Further, they would destabilize hospitals and health systems, especially those in rural and disadvantaged communities, leading to widespread disruption of health care services and economic decline.

HOW YOU CAN ACT: Contact your Members of Congress, from your state and district, to share personal stories that illustrate the importance of Medicaid to your patients. It is vital that policymakers hear firsthand from their constituents (you) about how policy changes to Medicaid will collectively hurt patients, physicians, and the economy. You can request a meeting with congressional staff at district offices. Remember, you are a constituent, and your voice matters!

SUGGESTED TALKING POINTS: Use what's below as a guide, but do not feel the need to follow it word by word. When using these points in a meeting, be conversational, and allow for staff response and input to let the meeting flow. Keep your message concise and focus on key points and action that policymakers should take. Make it personal: tell your story.



MEDICAID IS A LIFELINE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE PATIENTS

- Medicaid provides health care coverage to more than [79 million](#) Americans. Nearly [1 in 5 people](#) living in the United States are on Medicaid.
- Medicaid serves as a lifeline for the most vulnerable patients, including children, low-income adults, older adults, pregnant patients, individuals with mental health and substance use disorders and individuals with disabilities. Most Medicaid enrollees would be uninsured without the program.
 - Nearly half of American children in the U.S. are enrolled in Medicaid. Medicaid coverage in childhood has [long-term benefits](#).
 - Medicaid pays for [2 in 5 births](#) in the U.S.
 - It is the nation's largest payer both of [behavioral health services](#), which include mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and long-term care services, either at [home](#) or in [nursing facilities](#).
- Medicaid is [very popular](#) with two-thirds of Americans in the U.S. having had some connection to the Medicaid program, through their own coverage or coverage of a loved one.
- **ADD** in data from your state/district on Medicaid. You can find state and district Medicaid data [here](#).
 - **Share** with the offices if you have data from your clinical practice or hospital/health system regarding the Medicaid patient makeup.
- **ADD** in your expertise as an internal medicine physician on why these vulnerable patient populations need health care coverage. Underscore that not providing care for them would lead to more health complications in the longer term.

MEDICAID BOLSTERS ACCESS TO PRIMARY CARE AND CHRONIC DISEASE MANAGEMENT

- Instead of looking at policy proposals that would weaken Medicaid, we urge Congress to protect the program – which would align with the Trump administration's [stated](#) efforts to improve our nation's health.
- [Access](#) to Medicaid coverage is associated with a significant improvement in health and mortality.
- Compared to those without insurance, people with Medicaid are more likely to use comprehensive primary care. Through Medicaid, they can be connected to a primary care clinician, like an internal medicine physician, and receive regular care for chronic conditions.
- We agree with the Trump administration that we need to focus on chronic diseases, which are the leading cause of illness, disability, and death in the U.S., and are very [costly](#) to treat and manage.
- That is why we need to bolster access to comprehensive health care – which Medicaid provides. More than [half of the states](#) in the U.S. have implemented Medicaid care management programs to improve the quality of care for people with chronic conditions.



- **ADD** in the role of primary care physicians/internal medicine physicians in caring for patients and preventing and managing chronic conditions.
- **SHARE** a personal story from your experience caring for a patient on Medicaid with multiple chronic conditions. What would have happened to them if they had not come in to see you?

MEDICAID STIMULATES THE U.S. ECONOMY

- For six decades, Medicaid has helped to stimulate economic activity across the country.
- By bringing revenues to hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, pharmacies, and other providers, Medicaid helps support stable and reliable jobs, contributing to economic growth in states and communities.
- With the proposed reduced federal funding, it will be harder for patients to access care, states will be forced to drop Medicaid enrollees from coverage, and it will limit the health care services patients can access and cut payment rates for clinicians.
- Slashing already-low Medicaid payment rates will make it even harder for physicians to provide care to people covered under Medicaid and will ultimately increase health care costs as patients are forced to forgo vital preventive care.
 - **If you have your own practice or work for an independent practice: SHARE** the obstacles you and/or your practice face in accepting low Medicaid payment rates. How does it limit your ability to see patients now? **ADD** in how that would be exacerbated if Medicaid rates were to be cut even more. Will you still see Medicaid patients? Or will you be forced to not accept Medicaid patients in order to keep your practice open?
 - **If you work for a health system or hospital: SHARE** how potential cuts to Medicaid could impact staffing changes and how that would impact your day-to-day work and your patients' access to care.
- **For rural communities:** (For meetings with Members from rural communities)
 - **Medicaid keeps rural hospitals open.** Medicaid is a critical funding source for many hospitals and especially helps rural hospitals keep their doors open. Since 2010, [74%](#) of rural hospital closures have been in states that did not extend Medicaid coverage to all low-income adults.
 - Medicaid is a lifeline for children in rural communities who rely on Medicaid for school-based care when hospitals or doctors' offices may be far away. Medicaid allows rural schools to [provide](#) on-site nurses, access to mental health therapists, and other telehealth options. Children are more than [six times](#) more likely to access health care at school.
- **Reinforce** that Medicaid cuts would prevent, reduce, and delay access to care for our most vulnerable patients by forcing independent physician practices, hospitals and health systems to cut their work force and/or shut their doors – leading to poorer health outcomes and economic decline across the country.