

NO MEDICAID CUTS

The Republican Plan for Medicaid Will Harm Seniors

Medicaid Is A Lifeline for Seniors

More than [seven million seniors](#) are enrolled in Medicaid. Due to higher rates of chronic conditions and more complex health care needs, care for older adults accounts for [20%](#) of total Medicaid spending.

Medicaid is the primary payer for long-term care in the United States. Medicaid pays for services for [2 in 3](#) nursing home residents—or nearly 800,000 individuals. Close to [2 million seniors](#) rely on Medicaid for home- and community-based services.

More than [12 million](#) people with Medicare are dually eligible for Medicaid, which helps cover out-of-pocket costs. Nearly [a quarter](#) of these enrollees live in rural areas. Of those who are dually enrolled, around [10 million](#) are enrolled in the Medicare Savings Program, which uses Medicaid dollars to cover the cost of Medicare premiums and cost-sharing.

Republican Medicaid Cuts Put Seniors' Health and Coverage At-Risk

Every proposal on the Republican [wish list](#) of more than \$2 trillion in Medicaid cuts is bad news for seniors—cuts of this magnitude would slash 1/3rd of federal Medicaid spending. These proposals include but are not limited to:

- **Rolling Back Improvements that Help Seniors Afford Medicare:** Repealing or delaying the Medicaid Enrollment and Eligibility rule would cause nearly 1 million low-income seniors to lose their supplemental coverage, increasing their Medicare premiums and out-of-pocket costs. For these enrollees, a cut to Medicaid is a cut to Medicare.
- **Taking Nurses Out of Nursing Homes:** Rolling back common sense minimum staffing standards puts health care safety at risk for more than [1.2 million residents](#) living in nursing homes. Phased in over 5 years with exemptions for communities with workforce shortages, the rule is estimated to save [13,000](#) lives a year.
- **Sabotaging States' Ability to Adequately Pay Providers:** Republican proposals could represent a double-whammy for states' ability to ensure seniors have access and health care providers are adequately paid. By shifting costs to states and limiting their ability to finance their own programs, often through provider taxes used in [nearly all states](#), states will have to slash Medicaid reimbursement rates, including for rural hospitals.
- **Cutting Coverage and Services by Pushing Costs Onto States:** Dramatically reducing federal Medicaid spending through proposals like per capita caps, shifting administrative costs to states, and cutting the federal share will force states to slash services, benefits, and eligibility, including for low-income seniors.

Bottom Line:

Republican proposals to cut Medicaid will result in low-income seniors losing Medicaid coverage—and there is no acceptable coverage loss. No Medicaid cuts to seniors to fund tax handouts to billionaires.