

ACTION ALERT: Tell Congress “Say ‘No’ to Medicaid Block Grants

The Trump Administration and Speaker Paul Ryan want to block grant Medicaid, a federal-state program begun in 1965 that funds health insurance for 75 million adults and children, most of whom have no other access to health care. Right now, everyone who qualifies for Medicaid is entitled to be covered. Almost half of Medicaid dollars (48%) funds healthcare for children from their first day of life to age 21.

If Medicaid is block granted, however, states would receive a lump (and likely reduced) sum from the federal government, and would have more control how these funds are used. Although the Administration and Speaker Ryan have not yet issued detailed proposals, block granting could significantly reduce the funding states receive and the number of people who are covered. Results could include:

- Loss of (or lower) coverage for 50% of America’s children.
- Loss of (or lower) coverage for 2/3 of frail elders in nursing homes.
- Hospitals throughout the country closing down or reducing the number of available beds.
- Job loss in communities where medical services are cut.
- Unnecessary suffering (sometimes death) for millions of Americans.

Please call your members of Congress and **tell them not to block grant Medicaid** because:

- Americans, regardless of income status, deserve access to healthcare
- Medicaid-funded healthcare is less expensive than private health insurance
- Block grants do not foster “innovation,” but can divert critical healthcare dollars to state “priorities” (such as roads or golf courses).

To contact your senators and representatives, call the congressional switchboard at 202-224-3121 or visit www.senate.gov or www.house.gov to identify and contact your members of Congress.

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The authors will follow up with more articles on the likely impact of Medicaid block grants. For more detailed information, visit the [Center for Budget and Policy Priorities](#).