

JFNA RECOMMENDED MEDICAID TALKING POINTS

- I am calling to urge you/Senator ____ to save Medicaid and vote “NO” on the bill being developed by Senate Republicans if it converts Medicaid to a per capita cap or a block grant. This effort has nothing to do with repealing the Affordable Care Act and has not been properly vetted with the Senate and the American people.
- The Senate soon may vote on a bill that, like the American Health Care Act of 2017 (AHCA)(H.R. 1628) that passed the House of Representatives on May 4th, proposes the most radical change to Medicaid since the program’s enactment in 1965. The AHCA proposes to fundamentally restructure the Medicaid program by capping federal funds flowing to the states or creating a block grant formula, dramatically cutting the Medicaid program over time and causing 23 million people to lose coverage.
- These 23 million people include working families, children, people with disabilities, and older adults. Over time, capping or block granting Medicaid would significantly reduce the federal Medicaid contribution to the states by \$834 billion (about 25%), according to the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office.
- Capping federal Medicaid funding would deprive the program of needed funds and shift more costs to state and local governments, providers, and patients. States would have no choice but to sharply cut enrollment, eligibility and benefits for the populations they currently serve.
- Medicaid is a vital program and a major source of funding for our Jewish federations, and their health and long-term care partner agencies that provide health care, home and community-based services, and long-term care. These proposed changes to Medicaid would severely hinder our Jewish partner agencies’ ability to provide needed services to vulnerable Americans. **States and the providers who serve the most vulnerable cannot innovate their way out of \$834 billion in cuts, and philanthropies -- such as Jewish federations -- cannot make up losses of this magnitude.**
- Medicaid already often pays providers inadequate rates for services. **Capping the Medicaid program would further reduce Medicaid provider payments over time, as inflationary adjustments for Medicaid would be far below the national level of health care inflation.**
- Medicaid currently plays a critical role in supporting the nation’s health care sector and state and local economies. Health care providers, like our Jewish partner agencies, not only care for the people in their communities, but they also are employers, taxpayers and consumers themselves. Below average provider payment rates will force our providers to pare back services, cut jobs, and in some cases, close their doors. **As jobs are lost, former employees will reach out for governmental support, including Medicaid and other safety net services, thus increasing the strain on public safety net programs.**
- I welcome the chance to bring stakeholders (such as Jewish federations and our partner agencies) to the table to explore ways to reduce Medicaid spending that will lead to sustainable and productive reform, but will preserve Medicaid’s role as a safety net for vulnerable populations.
- **At the moment, however, I ask you/Senator ____ not to support the Senate’s health care bill if it would cap or block grant Medicaid and end the state Medicaid expansion.**

For further information, please contact:

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