

Health Care

Protect Medicaid

On July 28, 2017, in a dramatic conclusion, the Senate’s efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act failed by a close margin of 49-51. While this final vote marked the end of this particular effort, the debate over health care reform is likely far from over. It is clear after dozens of votes to repeal the Affordable Care Act that any new legislation should be crafted in a bipartisan fashion.

While last month’s vote sent a strong message, the House and Senate could revisit their proposals from earlier this year. These measures would make steep cuts to Medicaid that would be devastating for millions of Americans, including seniors, people with disabilities, low-income children, and pregnant women, while raising costs and lowering coverage.

These proposals to cut, cap, and block grant Medicaid would also reduce critical funding the Jewish Federation system and its affiliated social service agencies need to care for those in our most vulnerable populations. In 2005, JCPA’s network passed a resolution reaffirming our community’s historic commitment to Medicaid and opposition to efforts to cut, cap, and block grant the program.

- **It is time to focus on bipartisan solutions that strengthen our health care system and continue the task of making health insurance affordable and accessible for all.** Members of Congress must work on a bipartisan health care solution that lowers costs, maintains coverage standards, protects Medicaid, and expands access to affordable care.
- **Medicaid provides a critical safety net for over 80 million low-income children, older adults, pregnant women, and people with disabilities.** Drastic cuts and caps on funding would set the stage for rationing health care for the elderly in nursing homes, people with developmental and intellectual disabilities, pregnant women, and other vulnerable populations—including 40% of all children.
- **Capping, cutting, or blocking grant the program would reduce critical funding the Jewish Federation system and its affiliated social service agencies need to care for those in our most vulnerable populations.** Hundreds of Jewish social service agencies would be unable to provide services to tens of thousands of their clients and community members—Jewish and non-Jewish alike.
- **Future negotiations should focus on expanding access to the approximately 11% of Americans who still lack health care coverage.** Congress should expand Medicaid to all eligible residents of our nation and maintain the program’s current funding mechanisms and structure. Expanding Medicaid to cover all people living in poverty is a critical feature of the existing law and must be upheld.
- **Congress must ensure that seniors and people with disabilities receive the support needed to live independently.** Members of Congress must protect Medicaid, which helps our seniors stay healthy and able to afford their part of needed services. They paid into this insurance program during their working years and are now collecting on that investment.

For more in-depth information about Medicaid and continued funding threats, [read the Jewish Federations of North America’s latest background](#).