

# CONGRESS IS TRYING TO CUT MEDICAID – ACT NOW!

## Impacts on People with Disabilities

### What is Happening in Washington?

Policymakers in Washington are asking for big changes to Medicaid which will mean less money for the programs that people with disabilities depend on. These changes are part of a larger plan to get rid of the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare), which provided extra funding for Medicaid. Many policymakers think Medicaid gets too much money, so their plan also limits how much money states get for Medicaid. The plan to cut Medicaid is moving very fast.

### What will be cut?

Many policymakers don't understand how many people depend on Medicaid program supports. Medicaid supports nearly 1 in 5 Americans – from babies, children, people with disabilities, and older adults. Medicaid pays for doctor visits, surgeries, prescription drugs, cancer treatments, long-term services and supports, transportation, personal support, therapies, job coaches and all kinds of other supports that help people live healthy, productive lives in their communities.

Many people don't even know that supports they use are funded by Medicaid. Aged and Disabled Services, Developmental Disability Services, My Voice My Choice, Children's DD Services, Katie Beckett program, School-based Medicaid Services and Supports, and many other programs are all funded by state and federal Medicaid dollars. In fact, the federal government now pays 70% percent of all services you receive in a Medicaid program. That is a lot of money!

### What is a Per Capita Cap?

Congress wants to cut Medicaid by using something called a Per Capita Cap. People who use Medicaid would be put into different groups. For example, everyone with a disability would be placed in the same group and the state would receive a set amount of money to provide services to everyone in that group. The amount of money for that group will be "capped" or have a limit, regardless of the level of need.

The caps would only increase a small amount each year. In ten years, the amount of money our state would receive for Medicaid would be millions less than it is today. There won't be enough money to go around. The plan also says that if our state ends up spending more than their cap amount for people with disabilities, they will have even more federal money taken away.



## What Might Happen if this Bill Passes?

If there is less money in the Medicaid program, the people depending on it won't be able to get the same services they do today. Our state could choose to fund fewer programs and services because they couldn't afford to pay for all of them. Rules could change so some people may no longer be eligible to receive supports or the state might put people on waiting lists for long-term supports. It is possible that people who are now living in their home communities would be forced into nursing homes if there is not enough money to pay for services and supports to live in the community.

## What Can YOU Do Right Now?

Tell your story to the 5 different policymakers listed below. Share your story of how you use a Medicaid program or service.

## Ask Each Policymaker These Questions:

- How much money will our state lose under this proposal now or in future years?
- How will my services and supports change?
- Will we have waiting lists for services and supports?
- How can you guarantee my level of services won't change?
- How will our state be able to support the 277,567 Idahoans currently covered by Medicaid, including 208,294 children and offer the same services as it does today if it gets less federal money?
- Could our state decide to take away some services, like supports to live at home in my community, if they are not required to provide them?

Ask your policymaker to find out the answer to your questions. You can say you will call them back.

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| <b>1. Senator Mike Crapo</b>           | <b>208-334-1776</b> |
| <b>2. Senator James Risch</b>          | <b>208-342-7985</b> |
| <b>3. Representative Mike Simpson</b>  | <b>208-334-1953</b> |
| <b>4. Representative Raul Labrador</b> | <b>208-888-3188</b> |
| <b>5. Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter</b>  | <b>208-334-2100</b> |

