



February 24, 2025

TO: Members of the California Congressional Delegation

RE: Protect Access to Care and Oppose Medicaid Cuts

On behalf of the undersigned organizations and the 15 million Medi-Cal (California's Medicaid program) patients we serve, we urge you to reject the severe proposed Medicaid funding cuts that would harm the care that is delivered to all Californians, not just those on Medicaid.

California's Medi-Cal program is among the most efficient and cost effective in the nation, thanks in part to the critical role of local Medi-Cal managed care plans. Adjusted for cost of living, California ranks 14th lowest in per-enrollee Medicaid spending nationwide.

Ultimately, the proposed Medicaid cuts amount to an added tax burden on all Californians, as newly uninsured patients are forced to forgo vital preventive care and instead end up in hospital emergency departments with more costly, difficult-to-treat conditions — leading to higher health care costs for everyone.

In particular, the health care of our patients – children, pregnant women, seniors, disabled individuals, veterans, and low-income working families who cannot afford insurance or are not offered it by employers will be directly impacted. Additionally, having a regular source of care that includes preventive care and treatment for chronic conditions plays an important role in family stability and productivity. Medicaid provides essential health care services, and it must be protected. Medicaid is particularly important in rural areas, where 50% of Californians would lack health care coverage without it.

With nearly 40% of Californians enrolled in Medi-Cal, California voters have made clear that we need to protect this health care coverage, and increase funding, not tear it down. In November 2024, voters overwhelmingly supported increased funding for Medi-Cal, through Proposition 35, the Protect Access to Health Care Act, which passed with 68% of the vote and strong bipartisan support.

Three-fourths of Americans have favorable views of Medicaid, including a majority of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats and a recent Hart Poll shows two-thirds of Trump voters believe Medicaid is an important source of health coverage for people who could not otherwise afford healthcare.

The proposals to reduce federal Medicaid matching funds, establish per capita caps that end the guarantee of Medicaid, and eliminate managed care organization and provider levies—

which are dedicated to health care in California—disproportionately harm California’s rural and at-risk communities that rely on Medicaid. These significant cuts would shift the health care burden to physicians and other healthcare providers, may result in the closure of more hospitals and their services, along with physician/healthcare provider practices, strain community health centers that care for one third of all Medi-Cal enrollees in our state and make it more difficult for us to care for Medi-Cal patients and those who lose coverage.

California’s healthcare system serves everyone. Medi-Cal, 15 million people enrolled, is a critical funding and critical to the health and well-being of your constituents. It protects our most vulnerable by providing essential services to half of California’s children. It ensures vital access to primary and preventive care, improving health outcomes and reducing overall costs by keeping people out of emergency rooms.

Medicaid cuts will hurt California disproportionately. A vote to strip funding away from California is a vote against what California voters supported when they passed Proposition 35. We urge you to protect your constituents by rejecting Medicaid cuts that threaten patient care, coverage, and California provider viability. Please protect our Medicaid program.