

# Medicaid: The Foundation of Long Term Care in America

Medicaid cuts would be devastating to seniors and individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) and those who care for them. Nearly two-thirds (63 percent) of all nursing home residents and one in five assisted living residents, as well as virtually all 55,000 ID/DD residing in intermediate care facilities, rely on Medicaid for their care. Medicaid covers long term services and supports (LTSS) to help individuals with basic activities of daily living, like bathing, dressing, and walking. Despite the fact that Medicaid is the primary source of funding for these services, policy proposals are calling for cuts. Tell Congress to protect Medicaid and stand up for seniors and individuals with disabilities.

## The Funding Crisis: Medicaid Falls Short

Medicaid currently fails to cover the actual cost of nursing home care, at an average of 82 cents for every dollar. This underfunding makes it difficult for nursing homes to invest in their workforce, care services, and modernization efforts. For some, they've had to close their doors altogether.

### Cutting Medicaid funding would be devastating, leading to:

- Facility closures and reduced access to critical long term care services, leaving low-income seniors and their families with fewer care options.
- Exacerbated workforce challenges as providers would have fewer resources to compete for staff and caregivers
- Disproportionately impacted rural communities, who remain the most at-risk from cuts to Medicaid.

## The Economic and Workforce Impact

Beyond its role in healthcare, Medicaid-funded providers are major economic contributors. They employ millions of caregivers nationwide, and Medicaid funding supports jobs, wages, and capital investments. Cuts to Medicaid would create ripple effects throughout health care and the economy. When seniors can't find or access long term care, they end up waiting in hospitals, which are far more expensive for taxpayers. And, as facilities close or downsize, communities will lose critical jobs and economic stability.

## Congress Must Act Now

The aging population is growing rapidly, and the demand for long term care will rise significantly in the coming years. We must protect Medicaid and uphold the promise made to our nation's most vulnerable.

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