PROTECT
OUR CARE

The GOP War On Medicaid Threatens New Mexicans' Health

President Trump and Republicans in Congress have waged a relentless war on Medicaid. Their war on Medicaid is a war on children, seniors, people with disabilities, rural Americans, those fighting the opioid crisis, our schools, and everyone else who benefits from Medicaid.

Republicans' War On Medicaid Jeopardizes Coverage For Hundreds Of Thousands Of New Mexicans

268,500 New Mexicans Enrolled Through Medicaid Expansion Are At Risk. The Trump administration is relentlessly trying to end Medicaid expansion. In addition to arguing in court that the Affordable Care Act and its Medicaid expansion should be repealed entirely, the Trump administration has released a budget that would eliminate Medicaid expansion, which has helped 268,500 New Mexicans receive quality, affordable coverage, and transform its funding into inadequate block grants.

728,327 New Mexicans With Traditional Medicaid Coverage, Including Seniors, People With Disabilities, And Children, Are At Risk. The Graham-Cassidy bill that President Trump revived in his FY20 budget proposal would turn traditional Medicaid into a per capita cap, meaning the 728,327 New Mexicans who are enrolled on Medicaid would have their care jeopardized. Medicaid disproportionately helps children, seniors in nursing home care and people with disabilities. A study by Avalere found that Graham-Cassidy would cut funding for people with disabilities by 15-percent and 31-percent for children by 2036.

330,359 New Mexico Children's Care Is At Risk. 330,359 New Mexico kids are currently enrolled in Medicaid and CHIP, and their care could be at risk because of funding cuts in the Trump budget.

Medicaid Is A Lifeline For Schools, Those Who Need Long-term Care, And Rural Hospitals

Children And Schools Rely On Medicaid, Including 56 Percent of Children in New Mexico. 56 percent of New Mexico children rely on Medicaid for coverage. Medicaid pays almost $4 billion annually in school-based health services. Schools depend on these funds connect students with vital health resources — 68 percent of school superintendents said that they used these funds to keep nurses, counselors, and speech therapists on staff.

Medicaid Supports 66 Percent Of New Mexico Seniors In Nursing Homes. 66 percent of New Mexico seniors living in nursing homes have coverage through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 19 Percent Of New Mexico's Seniors And People With Disabilities. In New Mexico, 19 percent of seniors and people with disabilities have health coverage through Medicaid, including nursing home care. Nationally, approximately one in four people on Medicaid are seniors (9 percent) or people with disabilities (15 percent). However, they make up about two-thirds of all Medicaid spending. In other words, funding cuts to Medicaid will disproportionately affect the most vulnerable.

Medicaid Is Especially Important To People In Rural Areas. 36 percent of New Mexicans living in rural areas are insured through Medicaid. The ACA has expanded access to health care to nearly 1.7 million rural Americans who have gained coverage through the Medicaid expansion, not only playing a central role in improving rural communities' health, but also supporting these communities' economic well-being. Following New Mexico's decision to expand Medicaid, the uninsured rate in rural parts of New Mexico dropped by 43 percent. Medicaid covers nearly 24 percent of rural Americans, 45 percent of rural children, 15 percent of rural seniors, and pays for 51 percent of rural births.

Medicaid Helps New Mexicans Access Treatment For Opioid Addiction

Medicaid covers one in four Americans with an opioid use disorder and pays for 30 percent of New Mexico's buprenorphine expenditure, a medication used to treat opioid addiction. A recent study in Health Affairs found that expanding Medicaid could provide services to populations that may have previously had limited access to opioid use disorder treatment.