The GOP War On Medicaid Threatens Pennsylvanians' 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 Millions Of Pennsylvanians

800,900 Pennsylvanians 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 In addition to arguing in court that the Affordable Care Act and its Medicaid expansion should be repealed entirely, the Trump administration has released a budget that would eliminate Medicaid expansion, which has helped 800,900 Pennsylvanians receive quality, affordable coverage, and transform its funding into inadequate block grants.

2,939,108 Pennsylvanians 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 2,939,108 Pennsylvanians 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.

1,386,492 Pennsylvania Children's Care Is At Risk. 1,386,492 Pennsylvania 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 36 Percent of Children in Pennsylvania. 36 percent of Pennsylvania 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 63 Percent Of Pennsylvania Seniors In Nursing Homes. 63 percent of Pennsylvania seniors living in nursing homes have coverage through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 26 Percent Of Pennsylvania's Seniors And People With Disabilities. In Pennsylvania, 26 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. 22 percent of Pennsylvanians 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 Pennsylvania's decision to expand Medicaid, the uninsured rate in rural parts of Pennsylvania dropped by 32 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 Pennsylvanians Access Treatment For Opioid Addiction

Medicaid covers one in four Americans with an opioid use disorder and pays for 29 percent of Pennsylvania'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.