

The GOP War On Medicaid Threatens South Carolinians' 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 More Than A Million South Carolinians

By Refusing To Expand Medicaid, South Carolina Is Preventing 379,000 South Carolinians From Gaining Coverage. By not fully expanding Medicaid, South Carolina has restricted its Medicaid program such that only parents earning up to 67 percent [of the federal poverty line](#) are eligible to enroll in Medicaid. If South Carolina expanded its program, 379,000 [more adults](#) could gain coverage through Medicaid.

1,021,579 South Carolinians 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 1,021,579 South Carolinians 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.

641,235 South Carolina Children's Care Is At Risk. 641,235 South Carolina 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 42 Percent of Children in South Carolina. 42 percent of South Carolina [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 60 Percent Of South Carolina Seniors In Nursing Homes. 60 percent of South Carolina seniors living in nursing homes [have coverage](#) through Medicaid.

Medicaid Covers 19 Percent Of South Carolina's Seniors And People With Disabilities. In South Carolina, 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. 27 percent of South Carolinians 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. The uninsured rate in rural areas in states that expanded Medicaid has dropped by a median of [44 percent](#) since expansion. 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 South Carolinians Access Treatment For Opioid Addiction

Medicaid covers [one in four](#) Americans with an opioid use disorder and pays for 12 percent of South Carolina'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.