

# Protecting Medicaid: What can you do?

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU ADVOCATE TO GA SENATORS

*Advocating to Georgia's senators is important for people with disabilities and their families. Georgia senators can help protect essential healthcare services that help people with disabilities live lives they choose. Medicaid funds needed support, including healthcare, personal assistance, and community-based services, to nearly 2 million Georgians, including children, older adults, and people with disabilities. Federal cuts to Medicaid would make services worse for people with disabilities. They would face institutionalization, financial hardship, and preventable health crises without it. Engaging with Congressional Senators, advocates can influence policies safeguarding Medicaid funding, expanding access to care, and promoting community inclusion!*

This document provides:



- *Information about why you should advocate to Georgia Senators to block Medicaid Cuts*
- *Information about GA Senators you can contact*
- *Information about why and how you should engage with GA Senators to advocate to save Medicaid*

# Advocacy Priorities to Share with Senators

## Ossoff & Warnock

*By advocating against Medicaid cuts, people with disabilities and their families can help ensure the protection of essential services, economic stability, and their well-being.*



**Access to Essential Long-Term Healthcare & Services** Medicaid provides critical healthcare, personal assistance, and community-based services for approximately 2 million people in Georgia, including veterans, older adults with dementia, foster children, low-income families, caregivers, people with mental health support needs, and thousands of people with disabilities. Cuts would reduce access to necessary support like home care, community support, therapy, and medical treatments, essential for maintaining health and independence.



**Independence & Community Inclusion** Medicaid-funded programs like Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) enable more than 40,000 people in Georgia to live independently, work, and participate in their communities instead of being forced into institutional settings. Cuts would jeopardize their autonomy, opportunities to contribute to society, and overall quality of life.



**Economic Security for Families** Many families rely on Medicaid to cover costly disability-related care. Research shows that households with a member with a disability require, on average, almost \$20,000 more annually to maintain a similar standard of living compared to households without a disability. Cuts would increase out-of-pocket expenses, exacerbate financial strain, and potentially lead to job losses for family caregivers who are already under financial and emotional stress.



**Prevention of a Public Health Crisis** Without Medicaid, many people with disabilities would neglect necessary care, leading to preventable hospitalizations, increased homelessness, and worsening health conditions. Medicaid helps people avoid emergency room visits and institutional care by funding preventive services and ongoing healthcare needs.



**Workforce Stability** Many Georgians rely on jobs funded by Medicaid, including healthcare professionals, support providers, and mental health specialists. Cuts could threaten these jobs, creating instability in the workforce and negatively impacting the people who rely on them.



**State Capacity to Serve Georgians in Need** Georgia spends approximately \$14.4 billion on Medicaid programs, with 66% of that funding coming from the federal government. Cuts to Medicaid would reduce the state's ability to meet the needs of its most vulnerable residents, leaving people without access to the care and services they depend on to live independently.



**Work Requirements Tied to Medicaid Restrict Access to Healthcare for People Most in Need** Current work requirements for some Medicaid recipients in Georgia (Pathways to Coverage) have created barriers to healthcare access due to application backlogs, excessive paperwork, and complex rules. Of the 240,000 people eligible, only about 5,500 have Medicaid coverage. These requirements disproportionately limit access for those who need care the most. It is crucial that federal Medicaid funding not be tied to work requirements in the future, as they make it harder for people with disabilities to access the healthcare and support they need.

# Georgia Senators

*U.S. Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock are in key roles that influence them to block Medicaid cuts and advance disability rights.*

## Legislator

### Senator Jon Ossoff (D)

2021-Present



Website:

<https://www.ossoff.senate.gov>

Contact: 303 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3521

## Committees

[Committee on Appropriations](#)

[Committee on Rules and Administration](#)

[Joint Committee on the Library](#)

[Select Committee on Intelligence](#)

## Potential Influence

Serves on the **Appropriations Committee**, which directly impacts Medicaid funding decision.

Ossoff helps determine how federal money is allocated, including Medicaid funding

## Relevant Participation on Medicaid Legislation

### **S.4684 - Bridge to Medicaid Act of 2024**

*Co-sponsored, 2024*

To ensure affordable health insurance coverage for low-income people in States that have not expanded Medicaid.

### **S.2315 - Medicaid Saves Lives Act 117th**

*Co-sponsored, 2021*

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program to provide health care coverage to low-income adults in States that have not expanded Medicaid.

### Senator Raphael G. Warnock (D)

2021-Present



Website:

<https://www.warnock.senate.gov>

Contact: 416 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510  
(202) 224-3643

[Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry](#)  
[Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs](#)

**Subcommittee on Economic Policy (Ranking)**

**Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Protection**

**Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment**

[Committee on Finance](#)  
[Special Committee on Aging](#)

Serves on the **Finance Committee**, which oversees Medicaid policy and funding.

Warnock influences tax and healthcare funding policies that directly impact Medicaid's financial sustainability

### **S.4684 - Bridge to Medicaid Act of 2024**

*Sponsored, 2024*

To ensure affordable health insurance coverage for low-income people in States that have not expanded Medicaid.

### **S.1774 – ASSIST Act**

*Sponsored, 2023*

To amend the Social Security Act to provide for an increased Federal medical assistance percentage for State expenditures on certain behavioral health services furnished under the Medicaid program, and for other purposes.

## Sources

[Jon Ossoff](#) | [Congress.gov](#) | [Library of Congress](#); [Raphael G. Warnock](#) | [Congress.gov](#) | [Library of Congress](#)

# Why Engage with Senators Ossoff & Warnock?

*Senators Ossoff and Warnock hold key committee positions. They influence Senate negotiations and can use legislative tools like voting, filibustering, and amendments to block Medicaid cuts. Engaging them helps to make sure that Medicaid remains fully funded for people with disabilities in Georgia.*

## What Can They Do?

## How Can They Do It?

### Block Harmful Legislation

If a bill proposing Medicaid cuts is introduced, they can vote against it and rally other senators to oppose it.

### Amend Bills

During Senate debates, they can push for amendments that prevent Medicaid cuts or increase funding for disability services.

### Press & Public Statements

Senators can use media platforms to highlight the importance of Medicaid and pressure Congress to maintain or increase funding.

### Hold Hearings & Investigations

They can call for hearings on how Medicaid cuts would impact people with disabilities and service providers.

### Urge HHS & CMS to Protect Medicaid

They can lobby the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to block harmful policy changes at the federal level.

### Advocate for State Medicaid Expansion

Georgia has not fully expanded Medicaid. Federal lawmakers can push for incentives to encourage the state to do so.

### Rally Other Lawmakers

They can organize Democratic senators and moderate Republicans to oppose Medicaid cuts.

### Negotiate Compromises

If budget cuts are proposed, they can work to minimize their impact on Medicaid recipients.

# Strategies for Advocating to Senators Ossoff & Warnock

*Advocates, people with disabilities, and their families can advocate against Medicaid cuts by telling their stories. They can also share why Medicaid is so important for people with disabilities and Georgia communities by reaching out in ways that are shared in the table below.*

Advocacy Strategy	How to Do It
<b>Call and Email</b>	Contact their offices and share personal stories about how Medicaid supports people with disabilities.
<b>Write Letters</b>	Send handwritten letters explaining how Medicaid cuts would directly impact you or your family . <a href="#">Resources from the Autistic Self Advocacy Network can help crafting these.</a>
<b>Support Existing Bills</b> <i>Both senators have supported Medicaid expansion bills</i>	Thank them for their support and ask them to continue prioritizing Medicaid funding.
<b>Constituent Meetings</b>	Request in-person or virtual meetings with their staff to discuss Medicaid concerns.
<b>Town Halls &amp; Public Forums</b>	Attend events where they speak and ask questions about their plans to prevent Medicaid cuts.
<b>Social Media Advocacy</b>	Tag them in posts and use hashtags like #ProtectMedicaid #DisabilityRights. Share videos or testimonials about Medicaid's importance.
<b>Engage Healthcare Providers</b>	Ask doctors, therapists, and service providers to advocate for Medicaid protection with legislators.