

Protecting Medicaid: What can providers do?

INFORMATION TO HELP YOU ADVOCATE TO GA CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Federal Medicaid cuts could severely impact Georgia's disability services, leading to lower provider reimbursement rates, staff shortages, and reduced access to care. With over 7,000 Georgians already on waiting lists for NOW/COMP waivers, further funding restrictions could leave even more people without essential support. These cuts would strain an already fragile system, making it harder for people with disabilities to receive the care they need. Georgia's congressional representatives can help prevent these harmful changes. Your advocacy is crucial to protecting Medicaid's role in stability, workforce retention, and cost-effective care!

This document provides:



- *Information about why you should advocate to Georgia's congressional representatives to block Medicaid Cuts*
- *Information about GA Representatives you can contact*
- *Information about why and how you should engage with GA Representatives to advocate to save Medicaid*

Advocacy Priorities to Share with Georgia's Congressional Representatives

Medicaid funding directly affects provider reimbursement rates, workforce stability, and the availability of agencies to provide critical services. Georgia's congressional representatives play a pivotal role in shaping Medicaid policy and have the power to block cuts that jeopardize essential healthcare and long-term services and supports. Engaging with legislators is vital to protecting the future of disability services in Georgia.



Preserving Critical Services Medicaid funds essential disability long term services and supports (LTSS), including home- and community-based supports that more than 14,000 Georgians with intellectual and developmental disabilities depend on. These services are provided by hundreds of HCBS providers in Georgia. Cuts may force providers to reduce services, lay off staff, or shut down entirely, leading to gaps in care.



Making Critical Services Available to Those Who Need Them In Georgia, there are more than 7,000 people on the waiting list for NOW/COMP waivers, which are funded by Medicaid. Currently, the state government is planning to open only 100 new waiver spots in 2025, leaving too many people without needed services. Cutting Medicaid or restricting eligibility would likely mean that even more people who need services would not be able to get them.



Assisting with Workforce Stability Medicaid supports thousands of jobs in healthcare and disability services. Cuts would strain local economies, leading to job losses and overburdened healthcare facilities. It would also perpetuate significant staffing shortages and retention challenges in agencies that support people with disabilities. In 2023, the average turnover rate of Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) was 32%, with approximately 75% of those who left their jobs employed for less than one year. Organizations may struggle to cover expenses or keep up future cost of living increases for employees, particularly if provider rates cannot again increase in the next several years. This may lead to even more turnover or challenges with workforce retention.



Preventing Costlier Emergency & Institutional Care Medicaid HCBS supports prevent costly hospitalizations and institutional placements. Recent calculations estimate that HCBS per person costs are 25% to 50% less than institutional services. Cuts would shift costs to emergency departments, ultimately increasing state healthcare expenditures.



Long-Term Societal Costs Reduced Medicaid funding would negatively impact Georgia's public health, increase reliance on social safety nets, and decrease opportunities for people with disabilities to contribute to their towns and cities if there are not enough resources to support them in living and working in the community.



Workforce Burnout & Engagement Service providers already face staffing shortages due, in part, to high work demands and low wages. Further cuts will worsen the crisis if employees need to do more work with fewer resources.

Georgia Representatives

The 14 U.S. Representatives from Georgia are influential in blocking Medicaid cuts and advancing disability rights. Most of them have been involved in Medicaid-related legislation before. Below is relevant information on legislation they have currently, or previously sponsored or cosponsored, which providers can use as talking points to in advocacy.

Name & Contact	Committee Assignments	Medicaid-Related Legislation Sponsored
Carter, Earl (R) Office Room 2432 RHOB Phone (202) 225-5831 1 st District	Committee on Energy and Commerce Committee on the Budget	<i>Sponsor of US HR 9686 (2023)</i> , The HEALTH Panel Act proposed the creation of a Panel of Health Advisors within the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to enhance the accuracy of health-related studies and cost estimates. This initiative aimed to improve Medicaid policies through better-informed decisions, enhanced policy analysis, and diverse expertise. <i>Sponsor of US HR 4096 (2023)</i>
Bishop, Sanford (D) Office Room 2407 RHOB Phone (202) 225-3631 2 nd District	Committee on Appropriations	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 608 (2025)</i> , which aims to amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act. The primary goal is to establish a demonstration project under the Medicaid program. This project would allow political subdivisions of states (such as counties or cities) to provide medical assistance to the expansion population under Medicaid. The bill also includes provisions for other related purposes.
Jack, Brian (R) Office Room 1320 LHOB Phone (202) 225-5901 3 rd District	Committee on Oversight and Government Reform	<i>Representative Jack has not yet sponsored or co-sponsored a bill related to Medicaid.</i>
Johnson, Henry (D) Office Room 2240 RHOB Phone (202) 225-1605 4 th District	Judiciary Transportation and Infrastructure	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 608 (2025)</i> <i>Co-sponsor of US HR 307 (2025)</i> To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide coverage of peripheral artery disease screening tests furnished to at-risk beneficiaries under the Medicare and Medicaid programs without imposing cost-sharing requirements and for other purposes.
Williams, Nikema (D) Office Room 1406 LHOB Phone (202) 225-3801 5 th District	Committee on Financial Services	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 608 (2025)</i> <i>Co-sponsor of US HR 4895 (2023)</i> , The <i>Lowering Drug Costs for American Families Act</i> , primarily focused on drug pricing and reimbursement within existing Medicaid frameworks. The act would have impacted state Medicaid programs by altering reporting and billing practices related to drug pricing. Its main relevance was in reducing prescription drug costs and enhancing transparency in drug pricing.

Name & Contact	Committee Assignments	Medicaid-Related Legislation Sponsored
McBath, Lucy (D) Office Room 2246 RHOB Phone (202) 225-4501 6 th District	Education and Workforce Judiciary	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 608 (2025)</i> <i>Co-sponsor of US HR 9448 (2024)</i> The School Hunger Elimination Act of 2024 aimed to improve eligibility requirements for school meal programs by expanding the definition of “eligible child” to include those receiving medical assistance through Medicaid, with specific income thresholds for free and reduced-price meals.
McCormick, Richard (R) Office Room 1719 LHOB Phone (202) 225-4272 7 th District	Armed Services Science, Space, and Technology	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 7 (2025)</i> , The No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2025 prohibits the use of federal Medicaid funds matching funds for abortions or health benefits that cover abortion services. States cannot use their Medicaid contributions to fund abortion services, potentially reducing the availability of such services for Medicaid recipients.
Scott, Austin (R) Office Room 2185 RHOB Phone (202) 225-6531 8 th District	Agriculture Armed Services Intelligence Rules	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 9096 (2024)</i> , the Pharmacists Fight Back Act proposed amendments to Title XIX of the Social Security Act, which governs Medicaid, to improve prescription drug transparency. The bill required that beneficiaries' cost-sharing for prescription drugs be calculated using prices that reflect at least 80% of all rebates received, which could have lowered out-of-pocket expenses for Medicaid patients.
Clyde, Andrew (R) Office Room 445 CHOB Phone (202) 225-9893 9 th District	Appropriations Budget	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 7 (2025)</i> <i>Sponsor of US HR 10299 (2024)</i> , The Medicaid Funds Integrity Act of 2024, aimed to amend the Social Security Act to prohibit Medicaid funding participation in gun violence prevention or intervention programs under the program. This bill would have impacted healthcare and social services sectors and programs focused on mental health and community safety initiatives by reducing the available resources for such programs.
Collins, Mike (R) Office Room 2351 RHOB Phone (202) 225-4101 10 th District	Natural Resources Transportation and Infrastructure Science, Space, and Technology	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 3329 (2023)</i> , the End Taxpayer Funding of Gender Experimentation Act of 2023, aimed to prohibit using Medicaid funds for gender transition procedures and related health benefits.
Loudermilk, Barry (R) Office Room 2133 RHOB Phone (202) 225-2931 11 th District	Financial Services House Administration	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 7 (2025)</i> <i>Co-sponsor of US HR 8857 (2024)</i> , The Conscience Protection Act of 2024, aimed to amend existing healthcare laws to prohibit discrimination against healthcare entities that choose not to participate in abortion services. The legislation emphasized protecting these entities from penalties for opting out of abortion services, which could have led to significant changes in healthcare practices and interactions with insurance providers.

Name & Contact	Committee Assignments	Medicaid-Related Legislation Sponsored
Allen, Rick (R) Office Room 462 CHOB Phone (202) 225-2823 12 th District	Education and Workforce Energy and Commerce	<i>Cosponsor of US HR 4096 (2023)</i> The legislation <i>To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to expand the application of Medicaid State programs to monitor antipsychotic medications to all Medicaid beneficiaries</i> aimed to enhance the oversight of antipsychotic medication prescriptions for all Medicaid beneficiaries, regardless of age.
Scott, David (D) Office Room 468 CHOB Phone (202) 225-2939 13 th District	Agriculture Financial Services	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 608 (2025)</i> <i>Co-sponsor of US HR 8565 (2024)</i> The <i>Endometriosis CARE Act</i> aimed to enhance research, awareness, and patient support for endometriosis by authorizing significant funding for the National Institutes of Health and public information campaigns.
Greene, Marjorie (R) Office Room 2201 RHOB Phone (202) 225-5211 14 th District	Oversight and Government Reform Homeland Security	<i>Co-sponsor of US HR 7 (2025)</i> <i>Co-sponsor of US HR 498 (2025)</i> The legislation <i>To amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for gender transition procedures for minors</i> aims to modify the Social Security Act specifically to restrict the use of federal Medicaid funds for gender transition procedures for individuals under the age of 18.



Why Engage with Georgia's Representatives?

Georgia's Representatives hold considerable influence over Medicaid-related legislation and can use their key committee positions, voting power, and other legislative tools to block cuts to Medicaid. Engaging with them is crucial to ensuring Medicaid remains fully funded and accessible to those who depend on it in Georgia. By connecting with these representatives, you can help safeguard critical services, workforce stability, and long-term healthcare costs, making sure that people with disabilities continue to receive the care they need in their communities.

What Can They Do?

How Can They Do It?

Block Harmful Legislation

If a bill proposing Medicaid cuts is introduced, Representatives can vote against it and rally other lawmakers to oppose it, ensuring that harmful cuts do not pass.

Amend Bills

During debates on Medicaid-related legislation, Representatives can advocate for amendments that prevent Medicaid cuts or increase funding for disability services, ensuring the bills support those who rely on Medicaid.

Press & Public Statements

Representatives can use media platforms, press releases, and public statements to highlight the importance of Medicaid for people with disabilities, pressuring Congress to maintain or increase funding for critical services.

Hold Hearings & Investigations

They can call for hearings to investigate how Medicaid cuts would impact people with disabilities, service providers, and communities, ensuring that the effects of proposed changes are thoroughly examined.

Urge HHS & CMS to Protect Medicaid

Representatives can lobby the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to prevent harmful policy changes that could cut Medicaid funding or reduce access to services.

Advocate for State Medicaid Expansion

Although Georgia has not fully expanded Medicaid, Representatives can push for federal incentives to encourage the state to do so, providing coverage for more low-income individuals.

Rally Other Lawmakers

Representatives can organize fellow lawmakers, especially those sympathetic to Medicaid issues, to oppose Medicaid cuts and advocate for a stronger Medicaid program.

Negotiate Compromises

If budget cuts are proposed, Representatives can negotiate for targeted reductions or alternative funding sources to minimize the impact on Medicaid recipients, ensuring that essential services remain intact.

Strategies for Engaging with Georgia Representatives

Service providers for people with disabilities can advocate against Medicaid cuts by leveraging their expertise, networks, and influence. Here are key strategies tailored to their role:

Advocacy Strategy	How to Do It
Schedule Meetings	Request virtual or in-person meetings with their offices to discuss how Medicaid cuts would impact service delivery and provide specific examples of how it would affect people with disabilities in Georgia.
Facility Tours	Invite Representatives and their staff to visit service sites to see firsthand how Medicaid funds are used to support people with disabilities and how cuts would disrupt these services.
Submit Testimonies	Provide expert testimonies with real-world data on how Medicaid funding cuts would harm services, increase costs, and exacerbate existing challenges faced by providers and beneficiaries.
Empower People with Disabilities & Families to Advocate	Host letter-writing campaigns where clients can share personal stories of how Medicaid has impacted their lives. Assist families in making calls or attending town halls to voice their concerns directly to lawmakers.
Create Video Testimonials	Capture stories from clients and caregivers explaining why Medicaid funding is critical.
Form Coalitions	Partner with other service providers, hospitals, and disability organizations in Georgia to present a united front.
Sign Joint Letters & Petitions	Send official statements from multiple service providers opposing Medicaid cuts. Resources from the Autistic Self Advocacy Network can help crafting these.
Provide Impact Analysis	Show how Medicaid cuts would force service reductions, layoffs, or increased emergency room visits. Highlight the economic contributions of Medicaid-funded disability services in Georgia.
Social Media Advocacy	Post infographics, statistics, and personal stories about the impact of Medicaid on people with disabilities. Tag Representatives in advocacy posts and use hashtags like #ProtectMedicaid and #SaveOurServices to raise awareness.
Community Education Forums	Host webinars or town halls to inform the public about potential policy changes.