

Medicaid Advocacy Talking Points

IDEAS TO HELP YOU DECIDE WHAT TO SAY TO LEGISLATORS



Medicaid is the federal program that funds health care and services. Medicaid funds Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). About 2 million people in Georgia are enrolled in Medicaid. Some people in the Federal Government are planning to make changes to Medicaid. They plan to lower the amount of money the Federal Government pays to states. They also plan to change services can be covered by federal Medicaid money. It is important that people advocate to federal legislators to protect Medicaid. Senators and Representatives need to understand who Medicaid helps. They also need to understand why Medicaid and HCBS supports are so important to people with disabilities. They also need to understand how people with disabilities make communities better.

How will Medicaid Advocacy Talking Points Help Me?

The Save Medicaid talking points give you facts about how important Medicaid is to people with disabilities. They will help you make a case for keeping needed Medicaid funding in Georgia. You can share this information with Senators and Representatives. Sharing some information from the Advocacy Talking Points and telling your story is a great way to advocate.



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SAVE MEDICAID: ADVOCACY TALKING POINTS

MANY PEOPLE IN GEORGIA DEPEND ON MEDICAID

Medicaid is the primary funding of long term services & supports for seniors and people with disabilities. More than 2,000,000 people in Georgia depend on Medicaid.

Nationwide, Medicaid provides 75% of the funding for services for people with disabilities.

Medicaid is a needed lifeline for many people with disabilities who do not have employer-based or private coverage. Many people with disabilities have greater medical needs. People with disabilities often require assistance with activities of daily living over the course of their lives.

In the United States, more than 10 million who are not senior citizens depend on Medicaid.

Cutting Medicaid would make it harder for states like Georgia to decrease their waiting list. Right now, more than 7,000 people are waiting for Medicaid funded HCBS waivers in Georgia. Waitlists for HCBS are a big stressor on people with disabilities and their families.

MEDICAID HELPS PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES LIVE BETTER LIVES IN THEIR COMMUNITIES

Medicaid makes it possible for millions of people with disabilities to live a dignified life in the community.

People who use HCBS supports tend to have a higher quality of life because they live and have a good life in the community.

People who use HCBS supports are more likely to be employed and earn a fair wage.

When people are employed, they are more likely to help their local economy by spending the money they earn.

MEDICAID HELPS PEOPLE HAVE RIGHTS

People with disabilities have rights to live and be supported in their communities.

People with disabilities have a right to comprehensive care. Medicaid helps people with disabilities have those rights.

Everyone has a right to healthcare that does not exclude people who have disabilities or preexisting conditions.

CUTS TO MEDICAID WILL MAKE PEOPLE LESS HEALTHY

Cuts to Medicaid & repealing the Affordable Care Act (ACA) will decrease access to doctors and mental health providers who take Medicaid and Medicare. Fewer health care providers will serve people when they are not reimbursed as much for supporting them.

Repealing the ACA would allow doctors to refuse to provide care for anyone with pre-existing conditions.

Having HCBS supports plays a major role in reducing health disparities and improving health outcomes for people with disabilities.

Without Medicaid, many people will not get the health care they need because it is too expensive. Medicaid helps to reduce medical debt and bankruptcies.

MEDICAID WORK REQUIREMENTS WILL HURT EMPLOYMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Medicaid Work Requirements do not increase the rate of people working. Medicaid work requirements cause loss of coverage and massive red tape hoops that people with disabilities have to jump through to get care & services. In Georgia work requirements for some people who need Medicaid have been a barrier. Work requirements have made it so many people do not have access to healthcare they need.

MEDICAID MAKES GEORGIA COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIES STRONGER

Access to HCBS decreases acute care costs among people with complex health challenges and disabilities. When people have HCBS support, they are less likely to need emergency treatments. When people have HCBS support, they are less likely to need crisis services.

States that use Medicaid Expansion have higher employment rates among people with disabilities. When people with disabilities have jobs and get paid a fair wage, they spend more money in their communities.

Cuts to Medicaid will cost the economy millions of dollars in lost jobs for people who work in health care and long term services and supports. Job loss will lead people to spend less money in their communities.

Medicaid is a job creating program. On average, every 100,000 dollars or more in Medicaid spending creates two or more jobs in the community.

To advocate for federal support for Medicaid, you can call or write to the Senators or Representatives from your district. The Autistic Self Advocacy Network has a great [tool](https://autisticadvocacy.org/actioncenter/eolookup/)¹ to help you find your elected officials. The [Medicaid Advocacy Resources](https://unlockgeorgia.org/advocacy-alerts-%26-info)² on the [UnlockGA website](http://www.unlockgeorgia.org)³ will also help you learn more about your legislators and threats to Medicaid.

¹ <https://autisticadvocacy.org/actioncenter/eolookup/>

² <https://unlockgeorgia.org/advocacy-alerts-%26-info>

³ www.unlockgeorgia.org