

Summary of Medicaid Cuts in House Reconciliation Bill

The proposed Medicaid cuts include:

- Reducing payments to pharmacists for drugs, that could greatly affect community and rural pharmacies and reduce access to care.
- Further restricting the transfer of assets by seniors, that could disqualify seniors from nursing home care if they made innocent gifts to family members to assist with matters such as college education or unexpected medical bills.
- Increasing cost-sharing responsibilities for medical care by low-income persons, including the elderly, those with chronic diseases such as cerebral palsy, and those with disabilities. According to many studies, increased cost-sharing for those least able to pay reduces access to care, and shifts the burden to providers for uncompensated care and emergency room visits.
- Increasing cost-sharing for Medicaid recipients for medicines, which for low-income people will mean less use of life-saving medicines.
- Allowing States to discriminate among patient populations instead of requiring treatment for medically necessary services, so that States could limit benefits to groups such as the disabled, pregnant women, children, or AIDS patients.
- Allowing States to discriminate in treatment based upon geography, so that States could provide fewer services to people in rural areas than in urban areas, or vice versa.
- Allowing high deductible insurance plans, Health Opportunity Accounts, for low-income Medicaid beneficiaries whose income is too low to afford the deductibles.