

## Winter 2018 | U.S. Poverty

## Protect Our Most Vulnerable by Protecting Medicaid

Please protect health coverage for millions of low-income Americans by speaking directly to congressional leadership urging them to strongly oppose ANY legislation that cuts or restructures Medicaid, including proposals to penalize struggling families via "work requirements", ends the Medicaid expansion, or takes away health coverage for millions of Americans.

## Medicaid is Key – Especially for Low-Income Children

Medicaid plays a crucial role in providing health care for millions of children in low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and others. Medicaid covers 35.7 million children – here is a breakdown of the critical role Medicaid and CHIP (the Children's Health Insurance Program) play in the lives of millions of children from Georgetown's Center for Children & Families:



A large share of at-risk children rely on public coverage, as reflected by the percentage of United States children in each group below that depend on Medicaid and CHIP for health care they need to thrive:

79%	******	Children living in or near poverty.
45%	<b>****</b> *****	Infants, toddlers, and pre-schoolers during the early years that are key to their healthy development and school readiness.
43%	<b>****</b> *****	Children with disabilities or other special health care needs such as juvenile diabetes, congenital heart conditions, or asthma.
100%	*******	Children in foster care who face poverty, family dysfunction, neglect, and abuse that result in high rates of chronic health, emotional, and developmental problems.
48%	<del>╋╋╋╋</del> ╋╋╋	Newborns in low-income families to assure a healthy delivery and strong start during their critical first year of life.

Last year Congress considered several proposals to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) that also cap the core Medicaid program per enrollee. This would be devastating to tens of millions of children in low-income families, seniors, people with disabilities, and others who rely on this core health insurance program. Capping Medicaid shifts billions in costs to states, resulting in lost coverage and rationed benefits – effectively ending the program as we know it.

Please communicate to Congressional leaders that you strongly oppose legislation that cuts or restructures Medicaid, takes health care away from struggling Americans via "work requirements", ends the Medicaid expansion, or takes away health coverage for millions of