

Essential Medicaid

Opinion by Herald readers

May 9, 2025 10:32 AM

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Concerns are growing over Medicaid cuts in the latest congressional budget resolution and their potential impacts on people with disabilities. Medicaid is a crucial lifeline for those who rely on specialized care, treatments and in-home support.

As the single largest source of affordable healthcare coverage in the United States, Medicaid helps 72 million Americans, including working adults and individuals with neuromuscular diseases and other chronic conditions. Half the recipients are children. Any changes to Medicaid's structure that would make it more difficult to access this vital program, notably the imposition of work requirements, could directly impact access to care and jeopardize coverage.

For many disabled people, Medicaid plays a vital role in long-term care, home health services and access to essential treatments. If funding or eligibility rules change, many could lose the critical care they need. Without Medicaid, treatments could be delayed, home care services could become unaffordable and overall health outcomes would decline.

I encourage our representatives in Washington, D.C., no matter their political party, to protect Medicaid and consider how potential changes could impact the people who depend on it the most. Protecting Medicaid ensures that Americans from all walks of life, especially those with disabilities, can continue to access the care they need.

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