



Date: June 4, 2025

To: Chair Hertel and Members of the Senate Health Policy Committee

From: Monique Stanton, President and CEO, Michigan League for Public Policy

Subject: Opposition to Cuts to Medicaid

Good afternoon, Chair Hertel and members of the Senate Health Policy Committee. My name is Monique Stanton, and I am the President and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy.

The League is a nonpartisan research and advocacy organization that promotes economic opportunity for all and analyzes the impact of public policy on the lives of Michiganders who have been systemically left out of prosperity. The League is also the state's Kids Count organization, working as part of a national effort to measure the well-being of children at the state and local levels and to shape efforts that improve their lives.

We are grateful for the opportunity to give testimony today expressing our opposition to proposed federal reductions to Medicaid. Next you'll hear from experts in community health, behavioral health, and maternal and child health, but I'd like to begin with a brief introduction to the Protect MI Care coalition.

Protect MI Care is a multi-sector coalition of more than 260 Michigan-based organizations — health care providers, schools, community groups, and safety net advocates — dedicated to defending health care for the more than 2.6 million Michiganders who have health insurance because of Medicaid. The Protect MI Care coalition brings together voices from across every region of the state, and our shared goal is simple: prevent devastating Medicaid cuts that would destabilize our state's health care systems and protect the health and dignity of the 1 in 4 Michiganders at risk should federal Medicaid cuts become reality.

Results from a recent statewide poll, which assessed how likely voters across the political spectrum feel about the proposed cuts to Medicaid, found that 83% of Michiganders want to see Medicaid spending increased or kept about the same. This poll, made possible through the support of several members of the Protect MI Care coalition, also found that 86% of Michigan residents feel Medicaid is important for

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people in their local community, and 76% express that Medicaid is important for their family members and friends.

Despite their undeniable benefits and favorability, Medicaid and Medicaid expansion are facing significant threats. Congress is currently debating at least \$625 billion in Medicaid cuts over the next decade, which would have serious consequences for our state budget, health systems, and the individuals and families who call Michigan home.

The impact would not be felt equally. Communities of color, seniors, and people with chronic conditions or disabilities would be hit hardest. Rural access is already limited, and these cuts would only deepen the divide.

Slashing Medicaid won't reduce health care costs — it will simply shift the burden to states and working families. Proposed changes to federal Medicaid funding would force states to make painful decisions: either fill the funding gap or scale back the program. That means: fewer benefits, fewer people covered, and lower provider payments. None of this improves health care quality or affordability. Instead, it leads to more medical debt, delayed care and financial insecurity. It would mean real people losing access to care.

Michigan has been a Medicaid expansion state for over a decade, covering hundreds of thousands of residents and lowering out-of-pocket costs while expanding access to essential care. This progress is now at risk.

Work requirements defy common sense. People need to be healthy to work. Imposing bureaucratic barriers doesn't encourage employment or greater efficiency — it strips away the very care people need to stay healthy enough to work. Cancer patients, seasonal workers and those recently laid off could lose access to life-sustaining care due to increased paperwork and red tape.

Additionally, the establishment of a federal Medicaid work reporting requirement would force Michigan to allocate a significant sum of resources for its implementation. According to a recent report by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, in response to a directive from the governor, the estimated administrative costs of a work reporting requirement would total \$75-\$155 million. If we truly are aiming to be thoughtful stewards of taxpayer dollars, we must push against such spending, which has consistently proven to be both inefficient and ineffective.

Medicaid is vital to Michigan's health and future. We urge the committee to do what you can to protect and fortify this essential health insurance program.

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