

Medicaid Matters to Nurses and Their Patients

ANA is concerned that Medicaid policy changes under consideration by Congress will collectively have a devastating impact on our nation's nursing workforce and the communities that they serve.

These policy changes will result in shifting the cost of providing care for Medicaid patients to states. ANA is concerned that, facing statutory budget constraints, states may have no choice but to limit covered services and payments to providers. Consequently, **healthcare facilities may face financial strain that forces them to eliminate certain services or close their doors—leading to reduced work hours, hiring freezes, and/or layoffs for nurses and other healthcare personnel.** Nurses who keep their jobs will shoulder increased workloads and less time to devote to each patient due to higher patient volume.

State responses to the proposed policies may result in reductions in reimbursement rates for services provided by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), who already face inadequate reimbursement rates. Facility closures and increased workforce challenges will negatively impact access to care for our most vulnerable patients and devastate local economies, particularly in rural and medically underserved communities.

The policies under consideration will also result in millions of patients with limited income or resources across our country losing coverage and access to vital healthcare services.

Changes to the program may jeopardize access to maternal care, labor and delivery services, pediatric services, mental health and substance use support, primary and dental care, long-term services and support, home health services, and other critical healthcare services to our most high need patients. These reforms could lead patients to forgo or delay necessary care, resulting in more severe health conditions, increased uncompensated care for providers, and ultimately higher costs for the healthcare system.

ANA urges Congress to reject Medicaid changes that result in harm to nurses and their patients.

Facts at a Glance

- Provides healthcare coverage and access to **almost 80 million** people in the U.S.
- Covers over **40% of births** and nearly **65% of nursing home residents**.
- **Single largest payer** of mental health and substance use care services in the U.S.
- **Fourth largest financier** of health services for students in K – 12 schools.
- Nonelderly adults and children in **rural communities are more likely to depend on Medicaid and CHIP** for their healthcare.
- Nurse practitioners play a role in **improving access** to critical services for Medicaid patients.
- Medicaid coverage of safety-net hospitals, long-term services and support, and home health services **sustains jobs for nurses**.
- CBO estimates that proposed reforms in H.R. 1 will **reduce federal Medicaid spending by more than \$800 billion** over 10 years and result in **almost 8 million beneficiaries losing coverage** by 2034.

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