

The defeat of the American Health Care Act (AHCA) opens the door to a more hopeful and constructive conversation about how to improve America's health care system. However, we must be mindful that the dangerous provisions that would have capped federal Medicaid funding are likely to remain a priority for Congressional leaders. New proposals that include block grant or per capita provisions would place thousands of Maine children, older Mainers and people with disabilities at risk. Capping Medicaid funding at the federal level would have devastating consequences for Maine. Medicaid (MaineCare here in Maine) provides health care to 265,000 low-income seniors, children, pregnant women, adults, and people with disabilities—**that's one in every five Mainers.**

6 in 10 Maine babies get a healthy start through Medicaid every year.

4 in 10 Maine Children get help from Medicaid

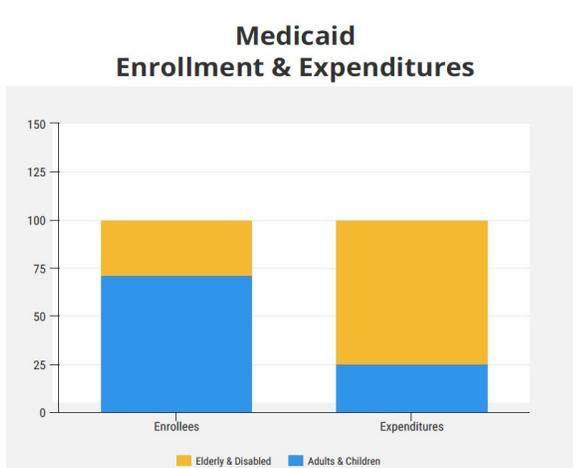
2 in 3 Maine nursing home residents are supported by Medicaid.

How Medicaid Helps Maine's Kids, Families, Seniors, and People with Disabilities

Children who receive Medicaid: do better in school, are more likely to finish high school, graduate from college and earn more as adults.

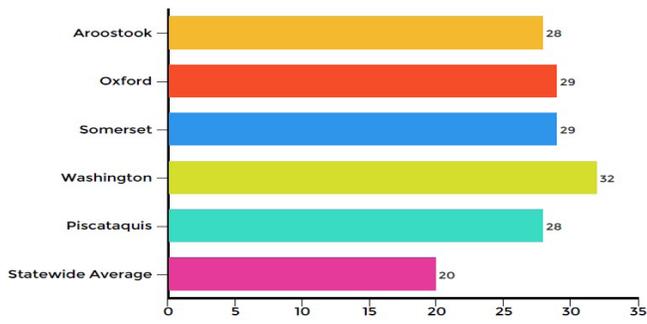
Families who receive Medicaid: are more likely to access preventative care, such as mammograms for women and vaccines for kids; and have a regular doctor where they go for primary care, avoiding costly emergency room visits.

Medicaid is vital to seniors and people with disabilities: Medicaid helps seniors and people with disabilities get the care they need, including services to help them live independently in their own homes.



Most Medicaid spending supports seniors and people with disabilities even though most enrollees are children and families. Seniors and people with disabilities would be most at risk if large federal cuts are made.

Percent of Medicaid Enrollees by County



The Assault on Medicaid: How Congressional proposals would have undermined the Medicaid program.

Congressional proposals would have made drastic cuts in the Medicaid program by capping the federal funding that would go to states.

Right now, the federal government pays about 64 cents for every dollar Maine spends to help people in our Medicaid program. The federal government pays more of the cost for sicker people with higher health care costs and less for healthier people with lower health care costs.

This would have changed drastically under the AHCA, which imposed a “per capita cap” or “block grant” on Medicaid. These dangerous funding schemes would have ended the federal commitment to pay for the care that each eligible person needs, ratcheting down overall funding and shifting costs to states and individuals.

For example:

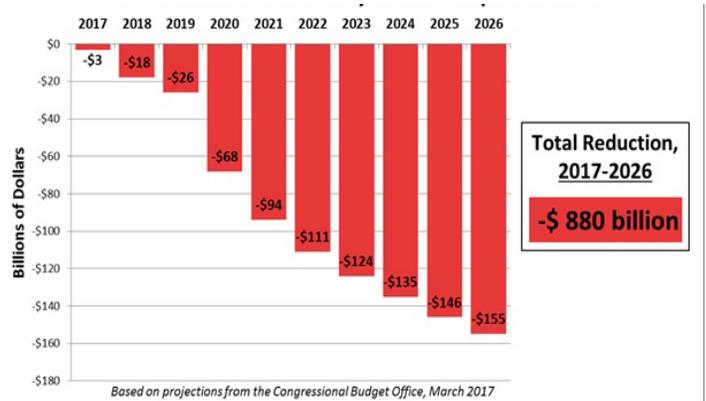
- o When a new and expensive drug comes on the market or we have an outbreak of Hepatitis C or increase in opioid addiction, there would NOT be increased federal help.
- o These changes would not allow us to keep up with increasing health care costs resulting from Maine’s rapidly aging population.

To balance budgets in the wake of these cuts, Maine policy makers would face untenable choices. Federal funds would no longer be there to cover care to children in foster care, pregnant women, older Mainers that need residential or home care, working parents, adults with serious mental illnesses AND people with disabilities.

Cuts would have a disproportionate impact in rural counties like Aroostook, Washington, Oxford and Somerset where Medicaid serves a higher percentage of the population.

This scheme would break the historic bargain between the federal government and states to fairly share in the cost of the Medicaid Program. It is all about saving federal dollars at the expense of states and their people.

The following chart illustrates the devastating impact the AHCA would have had on Maine:



Help us Protect Medicaid NOW

- Contact Maine Equal Justice Partners at (207) 626-7058, ext. 208 to learn more about how YOU can help us protect Medicaid for Maine people.
- Contact your Senators in Washington and let them know you care about Medicaid and ask them to protect, not cut Medicaid by imposing block grants or per capita caps:
 - o Senator Susan Collins at (202) 224-2523 or email her at www.collins.senate.gov/contact
 - o Senator Angus King at (202) 224-5344 or email him at www.king.senate.gov/contact

Sources: Maine Office of Family Independence Geographic Report, February, 2017; MaineCare Caseload Report; United States Census; Center on Budget and Policy Priorities; Kaiser Health Fund.

The Together for Medicaid leadership team includes Maine Equal Justice Partners, Consumers for Affordable Health Care, Maine People’s Resource Center, the Maine Council on Aging, Maine Children’s Alliance, New Mainer’s Public Health Initiative, and the Consumer Council System of Maine.