

The Disability and Aging Collaborative &



February 21, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, and Members of the House of Representatives:

The co-chairs of the Disability and Aging Collaborative (DAC) and the Health and Long-Term Services and Supports Task Forces of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities (CCD) write to **urge you to reject the FY 2025 budget resolution passed out of committee**. The resolution calls for the committee that oversees Medicaid to cut a *minimum* of \$880 billion, with pressure to make even deeper cuts. Any funding cut would punch multi-billion dollar holes in state budgets, shifting responsibility to state legislatures and forcing them to cut coverage and care for millions of Americans, including people with disabilities and older adults.

As the [attached letter](#) from 400+ aging, disability, and allied organizations from every state explains, at least [17 million people with disabilities and older adults](#), as well as family caregivers and their children, direct care workers, and other low-income individuals and families depend on Medicaid every day for their health, safety, and independence. Medicaid enables our communities to go to work and to care for our loved ones. It is our communities' lifeline, and we cannot afford for any part of it to be cut.

Medicaid is already lean and efficient. Funding cuts, caps, or changes that limit eligibility for or make it harder to enroll in or maintain coverage threaten the longstanding Medicaid guarantee for people with disabilities, older adults, and their families. Medicaid is critical not only as primary coverage for health care, but also as the primary payer for long-term services and supports (LTSS) that support people with disabilities and older adults. It pays for [nearly 70% of home and community-based services](#) and care for five out of eight nursing home residents. Furthermore, Medicaid helps 12.5 million seniors and people with disabilities with Medicare's high out-of-pocket costs and covers benefits that Medicare does not, including dental, vision, hearing, and non-emergency medical transportation. In short, cuts to Medicaid are cuts to Medicare as well.

We strongly oppose any budget resolution that calls for or leads to Medicaid cuts as well as any efforts to impose per capita caps, block grants, work requirements, restrictions on eligibility, barriers to enrollment, or any other harmful changes to the Medicaid program. Exemptions or carve-outs to Medicaid cuts meant for people with disabilities and older adults will not save them from harm. Over [15 million Medicaid enrollees](#) reported having a disability in 2023 through the

American Community Survey (ACS), six million more people than those who qualify for Medicaid through having a disability. The number of people with disabilities on Medicaid is likely even higher as the [ACS undercounts the total number of people with disabilities in the country](#). This discrepancy exists because Medicaid uses the most stringent definition of disability for eligibility, leaving many out. Medicaid expansion changed this, providing coverage to millions; however, that is now at risk. The bottom line is that any of these cuts and harmful changes lead to the same result: taking away coverage from people with disabilities, older adults, and others who cannot otherwise afford health care and long-term services and supports.

Access to Medicaid is a matter of life, death, and independence for millions of Americans with disabilities, older adults, and their families and communities. Medicaid is a lifeline, not a piggy bank. We will oppose cuts in every form because they will all harm people with disabilities and older adults.

If you have any questions, contact Natalie Kean, nkean@justiceinaging.org; Nicole Jorwic, nicole@caringacross.org; and John Poulos jpoulos@autisticadvocacy.org.

Sincerely,

Co-Chairs of the Disability and Aging Collaborative

Nicole Jorwic, Caring Across Generations

Natalie Kean, Justice in Aging

John Poulos, Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Co-Chairs of the Consortium for Constituents with Disabilities LTSS Task Force

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Tory Cross, Caring Across Generations

Jennifer Lav, National Health Law Program

Kim Musheno, The Arc of the United States

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