Advocacy Timeline: Opposing Restrictive Medicaid Waivers

Before Any Waiver Starts

1. GET READY

Assume your state is going to ask for a waiver. Organize early to fight it.

- As of April 2018, 18 states had or were actively pursuing restrictive Medicaid waivers and the list continues to grow.
- Keep building public support for Medicaid with personal stories and community leaders’ statements.

2. ACTIVATE YOUR COALITION

When decisionmakers start mentioning ideas like work mandates, time limits or coverage lockouts, activate your coalition. Fight it at the legislative or executive level.

- Organized opposition killed a Colorado Medicaid work mandate proposal in the state legislature.
- It is easier to change proposals before they become part of the law, or before a waiver is out for comment.

3. PARTICIPATE IN COMMENT PERIODS

Generate a large number of state and federal comments.

- Volume matters. More comments show state legislators that their efforts to restrict Medicaid are being noticed and build a federal administrative record that can support future lawsuits.

4. IT’S NOT OVER

Even if a waiver gets approved—it’s not over. Don’t forget that at any time waivers can be changed.

- When Pennsylvania elected a new governor, he rescinded the state’s restrictive Medicaid waiver and implemented a straight Medicaid expansion.