**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**[ADD THE DATE YOU ARE SENDING THE RELEASE]**

**CONTACT**

**[ADD THE NAME, PHONE NUMBER OR EMAIL ADDRESS OF THE PERSON AT YOUR ORGANIZATION WHO HANDLES MEDIA REQUESTS]**

**[YOUR ORGANIZATION]/HEALTH ADVOCATES Tell Congress: “Hands Off Medicaid” and our Health Care**

***80 Million Americans, and our Whole Health System, Depend on Medicaid as a Lifeline***

[**CITY AND STATE WHERE YOUR ORGANIZATION IS LOCATED**]

As reports of Republican proposals to cut or cap Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for billionaires and corporations leak, **[YOUR ORGANIZATION]** is taking action to tell Congress “Hands Off Medicaid.”

Hundreds of other state and national groups across the country are joining this effort to protect a vital program that serves 80 million Americans — including rural individuals, children, seniors, people with disabilities, and low-income working families and veterans. Medicaid helps to stabilize the economy; keeping rural hospitals open and reducing the financial burden on states and the health care system.

Voters across the political spectrum want costs to be lowered, including for health care. In fact, more than 71% of voters support people getting health insurance through Medicaid, recognizing the many ways it benefits people, health care providers and our communities. And stripping away health insurance from our nation’s families to fund tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations is **not what the American people just voted for.**

“Protecting Medicaid means children miss fewer school days due to illness, adults have less risk of falling into crippling medical debt and seniors can access the support they need to stay comfortably in their homes. Congress should stand with voters and protect Medicaid from any attempts to cut funding.

“In the last election, Americans, including in **[CITY OR STATE WHERE YOUR ORGANIZATION IS LOCATED]** voted for lower costs on everyday necessities like groceries, gas, rent and health care,” said **[NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO].**“Cutting Medicaid and shifting more costs onto families is the exact opposite of what politicians promised and what voters intended.

“Congressional Republicans are proposing cuts and caps to Medicaid funding to give tax cuts to billionaires and big corporations. These proposals threaten coverage and care not just for 80 million Americans and their families and caregivers, but the financial stability of hospitals and health providers we all rely on as well. Medicaid is a lifeline for so many communities and working families who need access to affordable health care that Medicaid provides,” said **[LAST NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION’S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CEO].**

As the largest source of public health coverage, Medicaid is essential to safeguarding the financial stability and well-being of millions of Americans.

**[INSERT STATE/DISTRICT LEVEL DATA AND/OR A STORYTELLER FROM YOUR STATE]**

“Congress must stand with our nation’s families by saying ‘Hands Off Medicaid’ and opposing any attempts to weaken this essential program. Our collective commitment to preserving Medicaid is fundamental to the broader effort for improving affordability and providing health and financial stability for millions of Americans.”

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**[BOILER PLATE TEXT: ADD 2-3 SENTENCES ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION]**