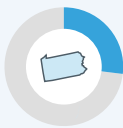**FAMILIES USA**
THE VOICE FOR HEALTH CARE CONSUMERS

Medicaid Matters to Pennsylvania's 8th Congressional District (PA-08)

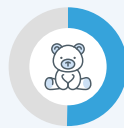## Pennsylvania's Medicaid program is a lifeline in northeastern Pennsylvania

Medicaid provides health coverage for children, working families, veterans, vulnerable seniors, people with disabilities and many others in Pennsylvania.[1]

Medicaid serves as the core financial backbone of northeastern Pennsylvania's health care system, paying for care and services at local clinics and hospitals and serving as a critical engine for the local economy.

In PA-08, Medicaid Serves:

A total of 203,170 people — **27% of all residents** in the district. In fact, PA-08 has the third-highest Medicaid enrollment in the state.[2]

A total of 80,451 children — **51% of all children** in the district.[3]

A total of **54,100 seniors** and **people with disabilities.**[4]

Over 3 million Pennsylvanians are at risk of losing access to care if Congress cuts or caps Medicaid funding, forcing the state to offset budget holes by throwing people off coverage, cutting provider reimbursement, and/or eliminating essential health services.[5] Any cut to Medicaid is a direct attack on the health and financial security of people living in northeastern Pennsylvania and runs counter to the will of the vast majority of voters from across political parties who want Congress to continue to guarantee coverage for low-income people through Medicaid.[6]

A total of **82% of adults** want Congress to maintain or increase Medicaid spending.[7]

A total of **67% of Republicans** want Congress to maintain or increase Medicaid spending.[8]

A total of **71% of voters** want Congress to continue to guarantee coverage for low-income people through Medicaid.[9]

Protecting Medicaid Means:

CHILDREN IN PA-08

Have access to newborn care, checkups, care for diabetes and asthma, and more.

Stay healthy and ready to learn, miss fewer school days, are more likely to graduate, and earn more as adults.[10]

FAMILIES IN PA-08

Have access to cancer screenings, mental health and substance use disorder treatment, and diabetes and blood pressure medications.

Have less risk of medical debt and eviction and can better afford to buy groceries or pay rent.[11]

SENIORS IN PA-08

Have access to nursing home care, transportation to medical appointments, and home health services.

Stay healthy and receive needed care in their homes and communities.

Medicaid keeps families in PA-08 healthy and working

Many low-wage jobs either do not offer health coverage or offer coverage that is unaffordable. Medicaid provides health coverage for workers at these jobs so they can remain healthy and earn income for their families.

- **At least 53,681 low-wage workers** in PA-08 are covered by Medicaid.[12]
- Nationwide, **92% of adults** covered by Medicaid either work, care for a family member, have an illness or disability, or attend school.[13]

Cutting Medicaid would make our country's affordability crisis much worse for families in Pennsylvania who already face significant health care costs.

Medicaid is the bedrock of the health system northeastern Pennsylvania

Medicaid keeps hospitals in the district open. It pays for:

- **24% of all hospital services** provided at Lehigh Valley Hospital-Hazleton.
- **21% of all hospital services** provided at Geisinger Wyoming Valley Medical Center.
- **20% of all hospital services** provided at Geisinger Community Medical Center.[14]

If Medicaid is cut, hospitals will treat more uninsured people, and the amount of uncompensated care will increase. A total of 6% of the district's residents are already uninsured, and increased losses in patient revenue would put all northeastern Pennsylvania hospitals at risk.[15]

Medicaid also plays important roles in accessing behavioral health care and nursing home care. Medicaid is the largest payer for mental health care, substance use disorder treatment, and other community services to curb the opioid epidemic and care for people with mental illness.[16] **Medicaid also covers 5 in 8 nursing home residents in Pennsylvania.**[17]

Medicaid stabilizes Pennsylvania's state and local economies

Medicaid is the largest source of federal funding for Pennsylvania, accounting for 63% of the federal funds received by the state.[18] Medicaid dollars ensure Pennsylvania can deliver essential health care without depleting resources reserved for other essential services, including public safety, transportation, housing and education.

Cutting Medicaid would make our country's affordability crisis much worse. Americans from all backgrounds just voted for economic security, imploring their representatives to lower costs on everyday needs, including health care. Cutting Medicaid would be a direct betrayal of constituents by making health care more unaffordable. **Families in Pennsylvania already face significant health care costs:**

- **80% of people living in northeast and north central Pennsylvania** are worried about affording health care.
- **33% of people living in northeast and north central Pennsylvania** had to deplete savings, take on debt or sacrifice basic necessities to obtain medical care.
- **53% of people living in northeast and north central Pennsylvania** skipped needed care due to cost.[19]

Congress has the responsibility to stand with families in Pennsylvania and across the country by protecting Medicaid and opposing any attempts to weaken this essential program.

Endnotes

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