

March 22, 2017

As members of the business community, health care professionals, religious leaders, and non-profit organizations, we call on Nebraska's members of Congress to protect the Medicaid program from cuts that would jeopardize the health of Nebraskans who utilize the program and harm our state's budget.

To put it simply, Medicaid works. It is an extremely effective and efficient source of health coverage for nearly 230,000 Nebraskans, the vast majority of whom are children and people with disabilities. Medicaid supports many Nebraska children in getting a good start through insuring low-income pregnant women and helps parents and children get the coverage they need to stay healthy. It serves people with disabilities by providing essential care and assistance in the community. It also ensures that seniors and others in need of long-term care are able to receive the care they need. It is responsive to economic downturns and public health crises.

For over fifty years, the federal government and the states have partnered to provide vital health coverage through Medicaid. Recent concepts suggested by members of Congress and the Trump administration to change Medicaid's current financing structure raise serious concerns about efforts to dismantle this critical program. Changes to Medicaid's financing structure, specifically through block grants or per capita caps, would prove both drastic and harmful for the Nebraskans served by Medicaid.

Block grants and per capita caps are an attempt to impose radical cuts to Medicaid under the guise of state flexibility. For Nebraska, and many other states also facing budget challenges, the cost shift imposed by a block grant or per capita caps would be disastrous. We fear the long-term consequences, such as eliminating services, cuts in enrollment, or waiting lists, that could result from this cost shift to states.

We strongly urge you to resist any efforts to alter Medicaid's current structure through block grants or per capita caps.

The undersigned are able and willing to provide resources and support and otherwise engage in discussion on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Action Committee Nebraska
Addiction and Behavioral Health Services, Inc.
Brain Injury Alliance of Nebraska
Center for Rural Affairs
Friends of Public Health
Grace Lutheran Church, Omaha
Health Center Association of Nebraska

Holland Children's Movement
March of Dimes
Nebraska Aids Project
Nebraska Appleseed
Nebraska Association of Behavioral Health Organizations
Nebraska Chapter, Academy of Pediatrics
Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers
Nebraska Hospital Association
Nebraska Nurses Association
Nebraska Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Nebraska Statewide Independent Living Council
Omaha Together One Community
Planned Parenthood of the Heartland
Urban League of Nebraska
Voices for Children in Nebraska
Women's Fund of Omaha