

State and Federal Health Care Concerns



Medicaid (TennCare)

Medicaid is the nation's largest health insurer, and is more efficient and lower cost than other insurance programs. Furthermore, Medicaid is integral to the healthcare infrastructure and plays a crucial role in state government budgets. However, like all purchasers of healthcare, Medicaid feels the pressure of rising healthcare costs, which have long grown at rates higher than the general economy.

If Medicaid (TennCare) is cut or financially restructured to block grants:

- **526,000** Tennesseans stand to lose health coverage
- Ends Medicaid expansion, keeps Tennessee from joining 31 states that have expanded coverage under the ACA; **leaves 280,000 still uninsured**.
- Widens income inequality

Medicaid (TennCare) cuts affect Tennessee's healthcare infrastructure:

- 1.5 M Tennesseans rely on TennCare for coverage
- 61% of nursing home care is covered by TennCare
- Over half of births and half of all Tennessee children are covered by TennCare
- **32 hospitals are at risk of closing** and are highly dependent on Medicaid funding

Medicaid (TennCare) cuts affect Tennessee's state budget:

- Over 20¢ of every dollar in the state budget comes from Federal Medicaid funding
- Proposed Federal Medicaid cuts of \$500 M/year will increase in future years
- ALL aspects of the state budget, including K-12 and higher education, will likely sustain cuts
- Currently 350,000 Tennesseans need access to addiction treatment

Above data is taken from Tennessee Justice Center's website.

<https://www.tnjustice.org/>