

STATE OF KANSAS

CAPITOL BUILDING, ROOM 241 SOUTH
TOPEKA, KS 66612



PHONE: (785) 296-3232
GOVERNOR.KANSAS.GOV

GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

May 5, 2025

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Roger Marshall
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20150

The Honorable Ron Estes
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Sharice Davids
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tracey Mann
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Derek Schmidt
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Kansas Congressional Delegation,

I urge you to protect Kansans by rejecting the billions of dollars in proposed cuts to the Medicaid program. Congressional proposals to reduce federal Medicaid funding by \$880 billion over the next 10 years would be devastating to Kansas. Early projections show that under these proposed cuts the state would be burdened with an unsustainable loss of up to \$1 billion in federal funding in the first year alone, with additional cuts continuing over the next decade. This loss would jeopardize the health and well-being of the hundreds of thousands of Kansans who rely on Medicaid, as well as the fiscal health of the state. These reductions will endanger the health care coverage of the most vulnerable: seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and pregnant moms covered under Medicaid in Kansas. Moreover, cuts to the Medicaid program will further threaten the financial stability of our hospitals, providers, nursing homes, and communities.

Our state's Medicaid program is a lifeline for the more than 443,000 vulnerable Kansans relying on this quality, affordable health care. Approximately 60% of this total are children enrolled in either Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). Medicaid also covers 31% of all births in Kansas, meaning these federal cuts would directly impact the care that pregnant mothers and infants receive from pre-natal treatments to postpartum coverage.

Table: Medicaid coverage for seniors, children, and Kansans with disabilities

Medicaid population	1 st District	2 nd District	3 rd District	4 th District
Seniors	9,500	12,300	6,100	10,500
Children	44,700	58,200	27,900	56,400
Kansans with disabilities	15,000	23,000	9,000	18,600

The suggested reductions in federal funding will force the state to consider cutting or limiting optional services and eligibility groups to cover the costs of mandatory services. A few of the services and groups at risk include:

Optional Services:

- Prescription drugs
- Dental services
- Vision
- Podiatry
- Physical therapy
- Hospice care
- Durable medical equipment (DME), including wheelchairs
- Services provided through local health departments

Optional Eligibility Groups:

- Kansans in need of breast and cervical cancer treatment.
- Kansans with disabilities on the Working Healthy program who are either already working or interested in working.
- Older Kansans and individuals with disabilities covered under certain Home and Community Based waivers.
- Children covered through CHIP.
- The Medically Needy population who have very high-cost medical needs, such as those with cancer or organ transplant recipients.

However, cutting these services would not be enough to cover the full cost of the proposed federal cuts, meaning our state legislature will likely need to appropriate additional state general funds to continue providing Medicaid services required by law. Moreover, the older Kansans and individuals with disabilities who lose their coverage will be forced to foot the expensive bill of finding privatized care or care within institutional settings.

Alongside limiting services and health care coverage for Kansans, these federal cuts will jeopardize the state's ability to administer the recently awarded Transforming Maternal Health Model (TMaH) and School Based Services grants earmarked for improving access to care for pregnant moms, infants, and school-aged children. The health of these Kansans will be at further risk if we do not remain committed to investing in the preventive and follow-up care provided through these initiatives.

Kansas hospitals and providers will also take a devastating financial hit, jeopardizing the state's health care system and Kansans' access to care. The impact of these cuts on providers serving the Medicaid population may result in lower reimbursement rates, forcing them to either reduce the number of patients they accept or stop serving this population altogether because of fiscal constraints. This attack on hospitals and providers will leave hardworking Kansans facing additional barriers to seeing their doctors and receiving timely, nearby, and personalized care. If

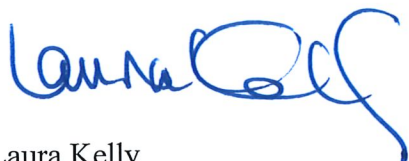
Kansans don't have access to affordable, timely care, they will have to turn to costly emergency room visits, which strain our healthcare system further.

Because Kansas is not a Medicaid expansion state, hospitals have been burdened with providing high levels of uncompensated care for the uninsured and underinsured in recent years. Drastic cuts to Medicaid will only worsen the precarious financial position of Kansas hospitals. Our state has already lost eight rural hospitals in the last 10 years. Out of the 99 that remain open, 63 are at risk of closing while 88 have had to cut back on essential services. Kansas hospitals cannot afford any further financial strain, as it could be the final straw that forces them to shut their doors. For many of these rural communities, hospitals serve as economic hubs. Losing them not only hurts their ability to access care but also means they lose the workers who power their community and drive the economic activity in these areas. It is unfair to Kansans and our dedicated health care workforce to put hospitals and providers in a position of having to consider limiting services, cutting back on staff, or closing.

For all the reasons listed above, I urge you to protect Medicaid from these proposed cuts so that the hardworking, vulnerable Kansans served by the program can receive the care they need. I am committed to investing in our health care system while continuing to ensure that Medicaid works for those who need it the most.

I look forward to working with you to find ways we can safeguard our hospitals and strengthen our health care workforce so our children, seniors, rural Kansans, and individuals with disabilities can continue to access quality, affordable health care. By prioritizing the health of all Kansans, we can ensure they remain healthy, on the job, and contributing to our state's growing economy.

Respectfully,



Laura Kelly
Governor of Kansas