



Protect Medicaid to Support Children's Access to Behavioral Health Services

Issue

American children deserve healthcare that provides access to mental health services. The current Budget Reconciliation plan threatens to cut Medicaid coverage for children.

Background

- America has a children's mental health crisis.
- Nearly 20% of children and young people ages 3-17 in the U.S. have a mental, emotional, developmental, or behavioral disorder, and suicidal behaviors among high school students increased more than 40% in the decade before 2019.
- Medicaid is the country's single largest payer of behavioral health services for all ages.
- Children comprise 43% of all Medicaid enrollees and are the single largest beneficiary group of Medicaid.
- Medicaid funds community-based mental health providers including through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.
- Proposed changes to Medicaid, such as per capita caps on federal matching funds and the elimination of Medicaid expansion, will cause undue budgetary constraints on states and jeopardize states' ability to offer adequate coverage & care for millions of children.
- Reductions in Medicaid threaten children's access to critical mental health services and the already scarce workforce that treats them.

Requests

- Prevent harmful cuts to Medicaid that would decrease critical access to behavioral health services for children.
- Prioritize continued Medicaid funding to ensure children in our underserved communities can access life-saving mental health care.