

# Medicaid Cuts: Know the Facts

The budget law passed in July (the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”) makes big changes to Medicaid. **The changes don’t take effect immediately, but when they do, they will hurt West Virginians.**

**The law cuts federal Medicaid spending by an estimated \$1 trillion.** An estimated 10 million+ people could lose Medicaid, including an estimated 65,000+ West Virginians that are enrolled in Medicaid, CHIP, and the following plans: Aetna Better Health Plan WV, The Health Plan of WV, Unicare Health Plan, Highmark Health Options WV, and Caresource WV.

## KEY FACTS

**People will lose Medicaid.** The law has new work requirements, and people must prove they’re working. There will be more frequent and detailed checks to verify that people qualify for Medicaid. Tools that would make enrolling in and renewing Medicaid easier will be rolled back. All of this means people will lose Medicaid—even though they are eligible—because of “red tape.” Some 62% of West Virginians currently enrolled in Medicaid are working full or part time jobs. Those who are not currently “working” may or may not qualify for an exemption and will also be subject to the verification requirements.

**Payments to hospitals will be cut.** This includes about \$1 billion per year in West Virginia and means hospitals may have to cut services and staff.

**Rural hospitals and communities will suffer.** Medicaid is an important source of health care for rural Americans and a key source of funding for rural health care facilities. Hospitals will lose funding under the law. They may have to cut services, and some may close. The law sets up a \$50 billion rural health fund to offset the Medicaid cuts, but it falls far short of closing the gap.

**Out-of-pocket costs will go up for many adults on Medicaid.** Currently, there are limits on co-pays and other out-of-pocket payments. The law will require payments of up to \$35 for many types of services. Older people and people with chronic conditions would be hit hardest.

**States will have less money to pay for Medicaid.** Medicaid is paid for by a combination of federal and state dollars. West Virginia currently receives \$4.5 billion in federal funding for Medicaid. The law also limits how states can fund their share of Medicaid, which means states will need to find this money elsewhere or cut health care.

**These cuts affect all of us.** If hospitals and clinics have to cut services and staff, this affects all of us, not just people on Medicaid. For West Virginians that are insured this means higher premiums and co-pays to offset the cost of caring for the increased number of people uninsured.

## What to do?

- ✓ **Become active in a group of volunteers in your area- use your talents!**
- ✓ **Write Capito, Moore and Justice weekly.**
- ✓ **Educate yourself on what is happening locally, statewide and nationally.**
- ✓ **Go to [5calls.org](http://5calls.org) to find your representative and make a call about your opinion.**

**...and VOTE!**

# WHEN DO “BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL” PROVISIONS GO INTO EFFECT?

