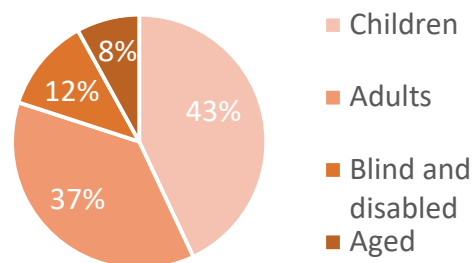# Supporting and Protecting the Medicaid Program

It is essential that we protect individuals with serious and chronic health conditions by supporting the Medicaid program and its ability to provide quality, affordable coverage. This means preserving Medicaid's current financing structure and opposing the addition of any barriers to coverage. Our organizations urge Congress to **support and protect Medicaid.**

Medicaid provides quality and affordable healthcare coverage.

The Medicaid program provides **quality, affordable healthcare** for low-income children, adults, pregnant individuals, people with disabilities, and seniors. Children make up more than 40% of Medicaid enrollment, as seen in this chart.[1]

One in four Americans are currently enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, or nearly 95 million individuals across the country.[2]

Medicaid supports patients with serious and chronic health conditions.

- Medicaid is critical for children. As of 2020, Medicaid covers 42% of all births in the United States.[3] Children's hospitals also rely heavily on Medicaid, as 50-80% of their inpatient days are reimbursed by the program.[4]
- Medicaid is the single largest payer of mental health and substance use disorder services in the country.[5] As of 2017, Medicaid covers nearly four in ten nonelderly adults with opioid use disorder.[6]
- For most Americans, Medicaid is the only source of funding for long-term care like in-home assistance, nursing homes and more.[7]
- Patients experience additional benefits in states that have expanded Medicaid. For example, states that expanded Medicaid have seen an increase in **early stage** cancer diagnoses, when cancer is more treatable.[8] Medical debt is also lower in states that have expanded Medicaid.[9]
- Gaps in Medicaid coverage harm patients' health. For example, gaps in Medicaid coverage for people with epilepsy are associated with negative health events like hospitalizations and emergency department visits.[10]

Congress should support and protect the Medicaid program.

Our organizations urge Congress to support and protect Medicaid. We oppose any changes to the financing structure for traditional Medicaid or Medicaid expansion, as well as the addition of any barriers to coverage like work requirements.

American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

American Heart Association

American Kidney Fund

American Lung Association

American Liver Foundation

Arthritis Foundation

Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America

Cancer Support Community

CancerCare

Chronic Disease Coalition

Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Epilepsy Foundation

Foundation for Sarcoidosis Research

Hemophilia Federation of America

Immune Deficiency Foundation

Lupus Foundation of America

Lutheran Services in America

March of Dimes

Mended Little Hearts

Muscular Dystrophy Association

National Alliance on Mental Illness

National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship

National Eczema Association

National Health Council

National Hemophilia Foundation

National Kidney Foundation

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

National Organization for Rare Disorders

National Patient Advocate Foundation

National Psoriasis Foundation

Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Susan G. Komen

The AIDS Institute

The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Volunteers of America

WomenHeart

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[4] "Evaluation of Children's Hospital Reimbursement." Texas Health and Human Services Commission, December 2020. Available at: https://www.hhs.texas.gov/sites/default/files/documents/laws-regulations/reports-presentations/2021/hb1-evaluation-childrens-hospital-reimbursement-dec-2020.pdf

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[9] Van Dam, Andrew. "Why the South has such low credit scores." The Washington Post, February 17, 2023. Available at: https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2023/02/17/bad-southern-credit-scores/

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