



THE PARTNERSHIP FOR MEDICAID

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Statement from The Partnership for Medicaid on House Republican Task Force Proposal to Introduce a Per-Capita Cap in the Medicaid Program

The Medicaid program provides health coverage to tens of millions of low-income people at a cost that is lower, per person, than either Medicare or private insurance. State Medicaid programs already operate on very tight budgets, making the most of limited resources to ensure patients covered by Medicaid have meaningful access to care.

As organizations representing hospitals, clinics, health care professionals, health plans, and local jurisdictions, we are concerned that a shift to per-capita allotments could exacerbate the existing strain on Medicaid. This plan could limit the federal role in Medicaid; shift more of the program's costs onto state and local governments, providers, plans, patients, and local taxpayers; and ultimately lead to the loss of thousands of jobs as health care employers account for increased responsibility for health care costs. Cuts to provider and plan payments, elimination of benefits, and reduced access to care are virtually unavoidable under this type of proposal.

Medicaid needs the resources necessary to ensure providers and plans can provide high-quality care to all patients. As policymakers debate the specifics of this and other proposals, any change must account for the real needs of the millions of people who rely on this vital program.

We stand ready to work with Congress to identify new and innovative strategies to strengthen Medicaid, to build on innovation and quality efforts in rural and urban communities across the country, and to enable the program to continually improve on its promise to provide high-quality coverage and access to care for vulnerable populations.

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The Partnership for Medicaid is a nonpartisan, nationwide coalition made up of organizations representing doctors, health care providers, safety net health plans, counties, and labor. For more information visit: www.thepartnershipformedicaid.org