

OPINION

Stanton: Don't let Washington cut Medicaid

Monique Stanton | May 5, 2025, 8:05 p.m. ET

Michigan is at a crossroads — and the stakes couldn't be higher. Right now, federal lawmakers are considering proposals that would slash Medicaid funding by hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade. These cuts would devastate Michigan families, upend our healthcare system and set off ripple effects that would harm every corner of our economy.

On behalf of Protect MI Care — a coalition of health care providers, advocates and community organizations — we urge Michigan's congressional delegation to reject any proposal that would cap or cut Medicaid funding. Our future depends on it.

Medicaid is the foundation of health care in our state. More than 2.6 million Michiganders rely on the program for essential medical services, including:

- More than one million children who receive coverage for doctor visits, vaccines, and preventive care
- Seniors who depend on Medicaid for long-term care, whether in nursing homes or with home-based support
- People with disabilities who count on Medicaid for the services that allow them to live independently and work in their communities
- Low-income adults and working families who need basic coverage to stay healthy and financially secure

This is about real people. In 2024 alone, 45% of all babies born in Michigan were covered by Medicaid. Nearly half of all children in our state are insured through the program. And for countless families in rural or underserved areas, Medicaid is their only access point to behavioral health care, substance use disorder treatment and preventive services.

Cutting or capping Medicaid would not just put these services at risk but unravel them. The House Budget Resolution proposes up to \$880 billion in cuts over the next decade. If that becomes law, Michigan could lose \$2.2 billion in federal Medicaid funding in 2026 alone. That would trigger a \$4.9 billion hit to our economy and a \$2.9 billion drop in state GDP. More than just numbers, these losses translate into shuttered clinics, eliminated jobs and families forced to go without care.

And let's be clear: when Medicaid funding disappears, it's not just Medicaid patients who suffer. Hospitals, birthing centers, mental health providers and long-term care facilities rely on Medicaid reimbursements to stay open. Without those, many will close. And once they do, they're gone for everyone — whether you have private insurance, Medicare or none at all. Entire communities could be left without a hospital, maternity care or emergency services.

We're talking about health care deserts forming across Michigan. Wait times will grow, remaining providers will be overwhelmed, and critical services will be out of reach for more and more people, especially in rural counties and urban neighborhoods that already face barriers to care.

Let's also not forget that Medicaid isn't just a safety net — it's an economic engine. It drives more than \$24 billion in health care services in Michigan each year. More than 65% of that funding comes from the federal government. Medicaid expansion alone brought more than \$1 billion in federal dollars to Michigan and supported more than 10,000 jobs. Pulling that support now would be a self-inflicted wound on our economy.

Michigan cannot afford to go backward. We cannot sacrifice our residents' health, our communities' strength, or our health care system's future to reckless federal cuts.

We urge our congressional leaders to stand with the people of Michigan. Oppose any budget that cuts or caps Medicaid. Protect our families, protect our communities and protect MI Care.

Monique Stanton is president and CEO of the Michigan League for Public Policy and is helping organize the Protect MI Care Coalition.

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/2025/05/05/stanton-dont-let-washington-cut-medicaid/83461691007/>